


Ministry @ DHUMC

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

May, 2023

www.dhum.org

Ancestry

Pastor's Message

Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. Once you had not found mercy, but now you have. 1 Peter 2:10

Weymouth New Testament

Five years ago, I spent my free time during the summer digging through census records. I have seen the census documents that describe my great-great grandmother's and father's household in 1871. They lived in a small house close to the river in my family's hometown. The document reports how old everyone in the house is and what occupations they hold. Governments engage in census taking in order to understand what they are governing, to assure that they are taxing everything the way they wish to tax it, and to map trends to help plan for the future. But for me, and for lots of people, it's past census results that are interesting as a way of researching our family histories.

As a pastor, I sometimes get caught up in someone else's genealogy projects. Drexel Hill United Methodist Church keeps registers of Baptisms, Confirmations, marriages, and deaths and so from time to time I get requests to search our books from someone wanting to trace their family tree. This usually brings up rather basic information such as names and dates, but occasionally someone learns

something new, for instance, that their grandfather was born in Chester, not Philadelphia, and transferred his membership from a Presbyterian Church and so was not a life-long Methodist.

In the Christian scriptures lineage and family trees are central to the story of salvation. Two Gospels (Luke at 3:23-38 and Matthew at 1:1-17) begin their account of the life of Jesus with a family lineage, a genealogy. Jesus is the Son of God, they proclaim, but also a child in a human family whose roots can be traced back to Abraham, and further back even to the beginning of time!

When a baby comes along, parents, siblings, and aunts and uncles often look for family traits. They claim to see her father's nose, his grandmother's eyes. But they look also to the future, for hope and possibility. Look at those long fingers - she'll be a pianist; such strong legs - he'll run the bases for the Phillies. The past is part of who we are, and being open to what we might one day become is also. Inheritance is not a static thing, but what we make of our lives to pass on to others.

I believe there is little to nothing that separates the realities of a family from those of a congregation in this respect. Jesus Christ, came to weave the life of heaven into our human story, our family story, and our congregation's story.

Perhaps all that is required of us is to live as those who are made God's children through adoption by grace, and to reflect the image of God's love throughout our lives. There might be more, but I doubt it.

To my dear congregation of Drexel Hill United Methodist Church, I pray you will always delight in having been woven into the life of heaven and reflect the image of God's love throughout your lives.

Peace,

Russell J. Atkinson





Russell Atkinson, Pastor

May Worship Services

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023
Acts 7:55-60
John 14:1-14
“There is No Finish Line”

Sixth Sunday of Easter

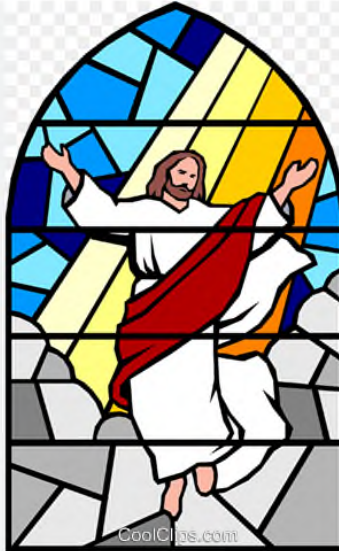
May 14, 2023
Acts 17:22-31
John 14:15-21
“The Test of Love”

Ascension Sunday

May 21, 2023
Acts 1:1-11
Luke 24:44-53
“Waiting for the Wind”

Pentecost

May 28, 2023
Acts 2:1-21
John 7:37-39
“A Dream Celebration!”



Lay Reader Schedule for May

- 7 Cindy Carper
- 9 David O’Connell
- 21 Carol Martsolf
- 28 Keith Chase



May 12, 2023



Ascension – I Am with You Always



Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:20 King James Bible

The Ascension, celebrated 40 days after Easter, is one of the chief feasts of the Christian year. Depending on where you grew up and what congregation you belonged to, this holiday might or might not mean much to you. Nevertheless, Ascension dates back at least to the later 4th century. Any old preacher worth her salt will tell you that the vital factor in the Ascension account is not Jesus departing into heaven (dramatic though that might seem), but Jesus' assurance that he will be with us always. Sorting out how to celebrate this spiritual truth is worth mulling over at least, and may be worth some serious struggle. Forty days following any Sunday will land you on a Thursday, but in our brand of Christianity we have shifted the celebration to the nearest convenient Sunday. Here at Drexel Hill UMC, we'll be celebrating the Ascension on May 21st.

We don't really need a special day to understand intellectually that Christianity teaches that Jesus ascended into heaven any more than we need one to understand the Easter message or the meaning of the Declaration of Independence or that, given present social norms, not much work can be accomplished on January 1st, due to headaches. Still, the faith is not only, or primarily an intellectual exercise – faith is a way of life. What we do and when we do it will influence who we are.

Events & News Around Our Community



On April 16th the sanctuary was full of so much singing, dancing and joy! The Matsiko World Orphan Choir visited Drexel Hill to perform and sing for our congregation. 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. We are grateful to get to hear them perform and hope they come back soon!



May 29, 2023

Project Restoration

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church hosted our first Volunteers in Mission (VIM) group from April 23rd through 28th. The workers were from United Methodist congregations in Harrisburg and Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. The teams travelled to Eastern Delaware County to assist with repairing storm-damaged houses and otherwise helping families in difficult storm-related circumstances.

One of the families help live in Downingtown and had their basement and ground floor flooded during Hurricane Ida. The family came to Drexel Hill on Thursday night, April 27th, to share a meal with the work team in our Rainbow Room.



Drexel Hill United Methodist Church is part of Project Restoration, a program of our Eastern Pennsylvania Conference funded through a grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The Project is currently planning work in Delaware County and was in need of a location to house the volunteers. Drexel Hill was able to house groups and three have already been our guests in April. Generally, the groups are using two rooms beneath the sanctuary for sleeping spaces and the kitchen to store food and prepare meals. Initially, the coordinator, Denise Shelton, is working with the local YMCA to provide shower facilities.

The week before the first team's arrival, a group of DHUMC volunteers worked through the living quarters to make them as clean and inviting as possible. The

reports from the VIM workers were that the rooms were up to the task and everyone slept well.

On Sunday, April 23rd, an impromptu group of DHUMC volunteers worked in our kitchen to bring it up to working condition. The volunteers cleaned and sorted through a lot of articles that have been left in the kitchen over the past few years. This work paid-off handsomely, as the kitchen crew from the VIM groups were able to begin their work with little trouble.

This is a splendid moment in the life of our congregation! We'll be involved in a major ministry of our Conference, a vital ministry to our community, and be able to use some of the vast and underutilized asset which is our building. Much help will be needed in the coming month to turn our facilities into an attractive home away from home for the volunteers.



DHUMC Response to Gun Violence Update



As a part of DHUMC's response to gun violence, the congregation participated in a postcard signing campaign to our recently elected PA Speaker of the House. Not only did our members sign, but friends and family members of the congregation were also invited to sign cards demonstrating their desire to end the gun violence that is so prevalent in today's society. Close to 60 people were a part of this first campaign.

DHUMC Community Connections Health and Music Fair, May 13th!

The countdown has begun! We are approaching the date of our first ever Community Fair that will highlight resources for our community and provide a live, musical program throughout the day.



The Fair is scheduled from 11 am to 2 pm, and will be held in the parking lot on School Lane. Various community organizations will have tables with information, free giveaways and activities for children and adults. The guest organizations include COSA, Delco Community College, the Red Cross, Delco Library, and the Community Y (There is rumor of a pop-up Zumba session!). Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence will be there, as will UD Tree Tenders and the Delco Department of Human Services, with handouts about supportive services for mental health concerns.

The musical part of the fair is being coordinated by DHUMC Music Director, Dan Matarazzo, and will feature both vocal and instrumental pieces, presented by the DHUMC choir, The Kelly Street Singers, Deo Volente, a men's trio, and possibly a few surprise guests!

What is happening for children? Face painting, sidewalk chalk drawing, making bookmarks, free books, plus more activities at the individual tables. Did I mention the free soft pretzels donated by Wawa?

Please come out and support this important opportunity to connect with our neighborhood. Invite your friends, bring your children and grandchildren. We want everyone to enjoy the music and learn about valuable resources for families in Delaware Co. Support your church and your community by attending and/or volunteering! Contact the church office with questions or if you would like to volunteer at the fair.

Crafters & Fellowship Luncheon



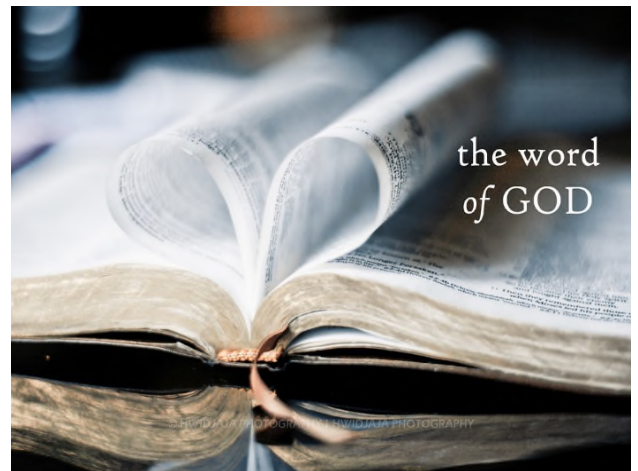
Enjoy our community with an afternoon with crafters. This group of women enjoy knitting and crocheting, but more importantly they enjoy the friendships that have formed. Even if crafts and needlework are not your thing, you are more than welcome to come for the conversation and camaraderie that is sure to ensue. The Crafters will gather for lunch at 12:30 pm on **May 18th** at Charlotte's Restaurant, 3207 W. Chester Pike in Newtown Square. The group has enjoyed

time together this past year and looks forward to meeting again in the fall.

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** in the church office at 9:30 am to 11 am, and on ZOOM. Our group is open to all. 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.



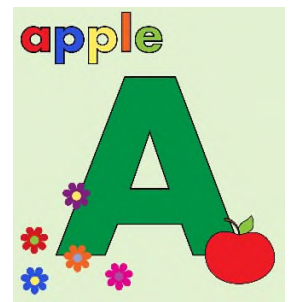
Nursery School News



In April we made projects with the color yellow, had fun playing in the courtyard, and enjoyed a visit from the Fire Company. The firefighters taught us how to “Stop, Drop and Roll”, told us to not be afraid of them because they are our friends, and took us outside to see the fire truck.

books and reviewing all colors, shapes, letters and numbers. We are also excitedly preparing for “Muffins with Mom” on May 4th and 5th. This is a special day for our nursery school children and their moms.

In May we will be finishing our alphabet



Registration is still ongoing for the 2023-2024 school year. We are available for school tours.

Volunteer Gardeners Needed!

Spring continues to be a time to be in awe of the work of God's creation. In March and April volunteers enjoyed time working in the beds around the church and along the Burmont Road side of the parking lot. Please join us as we continue our time together on Monday, **May 22nd** at 9:00 a.m. Also, please consider being a part of the Water Brigade during the summer months. The new plants at the corner of Bloomfield and Burmont need extra attention during their first summer and will require extra waterings. Please contact Barb O'Connell at 610-348-0129 if you are willing to be a part of the team.



Upper Darby Food Bank



We have been very busy lately. More immigrants coming into the area which is a challenge because of the language barriers. But we are grateful for all the generous donations to our food bank and want to thank all of our contributors. 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.

Be Kind to Animals Week – May 7 – 11





Happy Birthdays in May!

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

5/13 -Lois Baker
1512 Summer Lane
Pottstown, PA 19465
elbaker777@gmail.com

5/31 -Dave O'Connell
509 Lawrence Drive
Springfield, PA 19131
docnea@verizon.net

5/15 -Linda Flood
2101 Belmont Ave, Apt 2005
Philadelphia, PA 19131

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.

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church Calendar

may						2023
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN	
1 May	2	3	4 9 am Bacon, Toast National Day of Prayer	5	6/7 Fifth Sunday of Easter DHUMC Together In the Word	
8	9 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	10	11	12	13/14 Health and Music Fair Sixth Sunday of Easter Together In the Word	
15	16 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	17	18 12:30 pm Crafters & Fellowship Luncheon	19	20/21 Ascension Sunday DHUMC Together In the Word	
22 9am Gardening Time	23 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	24	25	26	27/28 Pentecost DHUMC Together In the Word	
29	30 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	31	1 June	2	3/4	
5	6	7	8	9	10/11	

