

Ministry @ DHUMC

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

May 2022

www.dhum.org

Let's Get Mystical

Pastor's Message

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12, NRSV

Some put the Ten Commandments at the very center of biblical ethics. To be sure, these rules are just about indispensable in order to have a community . . . though there are individuals and interests of late that seem hell-bent on removing any hope of trust from our civil lives. And yet, even those who violate the rules - 'Don't murder'; 'Don't steal'; 'Don't commit adultery': - would heartily agree that they didn't want someone to violate them in such a way. Few would disagree that these principles remain the foundation of all morality.

Are they still commandments though? Are they, perhaps, simply sound ethical principles, part of what Thomas Hobbes described as the social contract, essential if any of us wants to survive in a reality which would otherwise be 'nasty, brutish, and short'?



Where does morality come from? The question turns on whether we believe such notions are some sort of agreed-upon framework, strictly observed by some, loosely by others, and travelling along a spectrum of inquiry that leads to the idea that there is a One out there who commands.

God speaks through sacred texts. Some acknowledge this, but for others it is the collective voice of humanity here on earth that adjudicates how we should behave. I find the 'God speaks' framing much more convincing, but recognize that we must work within the 'collective voice of humanity' frame in order to get anything accomplished these days.

I'm finding the language of the mystics most helpful at the moment, who speak of God beyond all worlds, yet filling all worlds, and whose presence is within all life.

Seen this way, God's commandments speak from the tenderness and vulnerability of children, the needs of the sick, the outrage of those suffering injustice, the beauty of birdsong, and the cries of the first lambs. 'Honor life; care for life; never hurt life', they all say, and this is the root of everything that matters.

Thank You, Gracious Lord, for your great power and love for all people.

Even during times of trial, help us to see that we are all one world community; that our actions affect those around us. Teach us to hear your voice in all life and make us understand that the health and safety of our families' rests in everyone working together with love and compassion for each other. May you be our guide, O Lord, and may we always praise and glorify you. Amen.

Russell J. Atkinson

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A monthly newsletter for the membership of DHUMC.

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

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Coffee and Conversation



The congregation is invited to visit the table at the back of the Sanctuary to have a hot beverage and perhaps munch on a cookie. There is plenty of room to have socially safe conversations, as we renew friendships and welcome visitors. Should you wish to occasionally help out with the setting up of the coffee station, please contact Jane Todd at 610-306-7501.

Heavy Psalm/Light Exercise Men's Fellowship Hour

Join us on Mondays 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.

Tuesday Morning Faith Bible Study

Our Bible Study/Faith Formation Class meets every Tuesday at 9:30 to 11 am. We will meet on Zoom. 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.



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 **May 5, 2022**. Hope to see you there!



Administrative Council Meeting

The DHUMC Administrative Council will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, **May 9th**, at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will be on Zoom so please be on the lookout shortly before 7:00 for your invitation to sign in. Among the items on the meeting agenda will be a discussion of progress on "Looking Ahead to DHUMC Ministries in 2022 and Beyond." If you aren't a member of the Administrative Council but would like to sit in on this meeting, please contact the church office or Becky Harbison at rrharbison@verizon.net, and you will be added to the Zoom invitation list.





Russell Atkinson, Pastor

May Worship Services

Third Sunday of Easter

May 1, 2022
Acts 9:1-20;
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19
“While Waiting”

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2022
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30
“Suspense”

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Mother’s Day
May 15, 2022
Acts 11:1-18
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35
“Love One Another”

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 22, 2022
Acts 16:9-15
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29
“Dust in the Wind?”

Ascension Sunday

May 29, 2022
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 (UMH 781)
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53
“Open Minds”



Memorial Day is May 30th.

Lay Reader Schedule for May

- 1 Carol Martsof
- 8 Dave O’Connell
- 15 Jane Leggieri
- 22 Guardia Daniels
- 29 Sally Mullins



Celebrating Easter at DHUMC



News Around Our Community

Gardening Volunteers Needed

Thanks to the efforts of several gardeners, the flower beds along Burmont Road were spruced up in time for Easter. Hopefully you will take some time to enjoy the patio plantings while resting on the bench under the crepe myrtle. The camellias may be past their peak but something else is sure to catch your eye. Monday, **May 9th** will be the next day we gather to continue our work. You may choose to pitch in from 9:00-11:00a.m. OR from 6:00-8:00p.m. The later time is being added because there were volunteers who wished to come after work hours. So plan to join us and enjoy being in the out-of-doors.



Crafters & Fellowship Meetup



Knitting needles, darning needles, crochet needles. If you have any of these or any other type of handcraft that you enjoy, plan to come to the Bohn Parlor on **the Third Wednesday of each month** at 1:00 pm. The next meetup is on **May 18th**. Not into handwork? Then come for the cookies and tea that will accompany the lively fellowship. One person may be knitting a prayer shawl

while another may be crocheting a baby blanket. Others may be working on the day's Wordle puzzle. Some will come to chat, others to listen, but all are welcome.



May is National Military Appreciation Month

Nursery School News

Our school year ends Friday, **May 20**. We will then be having “Summer Jamboree” starting **May 24th and ending June 17**. This is an extension of nursery school for those interested.

In May, we will be finishing our alphabet books and reviewing all colors, shapes, letters and numbers. We are also excitedly preparing for “Muffins with Mom” on **May 5th and 6th**. This is a special day for our nursery school children and their moms.



Registration is still ongoing for the 2022-2023 school year. Please share with friends and family that we have available spaces for 3- and 4-year-olds. We will be regularly checking email and phone messages over the summer and will be available for school tours. We wish you a healthy and relaxing summer!



Upper Darby Food Cupboard

Although Giant is no longer donating to the food cupboard, they are requiring us to go through Philabundance, which is not an option for us. But we still have enough food to distribute to the local community and are fortunate to have a number of generous benefactors and are using these funds to purchase food from Acme and Aldi. We are still supported by Panera and Wawa as well. 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.

Welcome Alessio Thomas!

Alessio Thomas Davie was baptized on April 24, 2022 and welcomed into the DHUMC community. Alessio's parents, Rachel Erhart and Gregory Davie celebrated with fellow parishioners at the Sunday service.



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
Charles Webb
Dan Matarazzo
Helen Campbell
Russell Atkinson
Helen Campbell
Dave O'Connell
Alex Mullin
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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 a

Happy Birthdays in May!

Flowers are blooming and here are a few birthdays to celebrate in the month of May! 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.



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

5/31 - David O'Connell
509 Lawrence Dr.
Springfield, PA 19064
docnea@verizon.net

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church Calendar

May 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Third Sunday of Easter	Men's Fellowship	Bible Study		Bacon Toast Heavenly Host	Nursery School Mother's Day Celebration	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Fourth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day	Men's Fellowship Admin Meeting	Bible Study				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Fifth Sunday of Easter	Men's Fellowship	Bible Study No Nursery School	Crafters Meetup		Last Day of Nursery School	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Sixth Sunday of Easter	Men's Fellowship	Bible Study Summer Jamboree Starts				
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Ascension Sunday	Memorial Day	Bible Study				

