



Ministry @ DHUMC

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

January, 2023

www.dhum.org

The Small Stuff is BIG

Pastor's Message

Many a soul struggles to grasp opportunities to make the love of God tangible in their lives and the lives of those around them. We look at ourselves and sometimes see only weakness, feeling we have nothing to give. Suburban Christians, of course, can feel especially powerless when we hear of gun violence in cities or other places around the nation. Yet, if we look closely, we have an abundance of gifts that we can share with others, here and far away.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus prays to the Creator for his disciples saying 'I have made you known to those you have given me out of the world . . .' As Christ reveals the Creator to humanity, we too are called to do the same with one another. This can be realized in the ways that we interact, and how we react to each other's pains and celebrations.

How often do we ask about each other, how interested are we in the lives and experiences of others in our neighborhoods or in our county? This may seem a thin reed to cling to where our national epidemic of gun violence is concerned, but it must surely be a positive step in reconnecting the members of our ever-more-siloed society. Do we give others love, importance, and priority? Do we have time for one another in our fast-paced and ever-changing world, or do we get caught up in the daily routine and dive deep and long into social networks that have now almost become our primary means of communication.

As Christians, we believe that setting aside time in our busy schedules to sanctify our thoughts, actions and selves through contemplation and interaction with God, will lead us to share the love

and joy that we have freely received from God.

May we bring joy to God's heart in sharing our presence and love, giving freely to one another as we have received from God, expecting nothing in return.

Have an ever-sharing 2023!

Russell J. Atkinson

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A monthly newsletter for the membership of DHUMC.

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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.

Administrative Council Meeting Update

The next regularly scheduled Administrative Council meeting will be held on **Monday, January 9, 2023**, at 7:00 pm. The Council will continue its practice of meeting on Zoom, so shortly before 7:00 pm, please watch for Pastor Atkinson's invitation to sign on. If you aren't a member of the Administrative 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.



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



DHUMC Response to Gun Violence

The focus area point person meeting will be **Thursday, January 12th** from 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm to continue to identify activities and steps for 2023. We are still lacking point persons in a few focus areas, but will strive to identify some feasible progress steps while those roles remain vacant.

The rollout of the 2023 action plan will then be presented on **Sunday, February 12th** following the worship service from approximately 11:10 am to 11:40 am. All are very welcome to participate.

In the meantime, please pray for God to guide and equip us all in this essential response. We will respond and will make a difference.





Russell Atkinson, Pastor

January Worship Services

New Year's Day

January 1, 2023
Isaiah 60:1-6,
Matthew 2:1-12
"The Mysterious Inclusion"

Baptism of Our Lord

January 8, 2023
Isaiah 42:1-9,
Matthew 3:13-17
"A Crisis of Remorse"
(a playful sermon that is only
83% true)

Second Sunday After Epiphany

January 15, 2023
Isaiah 49:1-7
John: 1:29-42
"Control and Freedom"

Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 22, 2023
Isaiah 9:1-4
Matthew 4:12-23
"The Sharp Demands of
Discipleship"

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

January 29, 2023
Micah 6:1-8,
Matthew 5:1-12
"Be Happy"



New Year Blessings!

Lay Reader Schedule for January

- 1 Cindy Carper
- 8 David O'Connell
- 15 Carol Martsof
- 22 Keith Chase
- 29 Jane Leggieri



JANUARY IS

NATIONAL BLOOD
DONOR MONTH





January Worship Notes

After the Ecstasy comes the Laundry

Epiphany (also known as “Theophany,” “Three Kings’ Day,” or in Spanish, “Los Tres Reyes Magos”), is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God in his Son as human in Jesus Christ. In The United Methodist Church, the day commemorates principally (but not solely) the visit of the Magi to the Christ child, and thus Jesus’ physical manifestation to all the world. At least as important though, our Epiphany celebration, also initiates the new liturgical season of Epiphanytide, counted out by its Sundays after Epiphany.

The traditional date for the feast is January 6th. However, since 1970, the celebration is held in some countries on the Sunday after January 1st. The United Methodist Church allows for the celebration of days like these – not fixed to a Sunday – to be celebrated on the nearest Sunday beforehand. In many Western Christian Churches, the eve of the feast is celebrated as Twelfth Night (the last night of Christmas).

The traditional Church calendar of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany has been pushed around pretty substantially by our secular priorities, but the ministry remains the same: the season of Epiphany is about getting the Word out to the world, and the Word is Love.

The Work of Christmas

by Howard Thurman

When the star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and Princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins.
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoner,
To teach the nations,
To bring Christ to all,
To make music in the heart.

News Around Our Community

Crafters & Fellowship Meetup



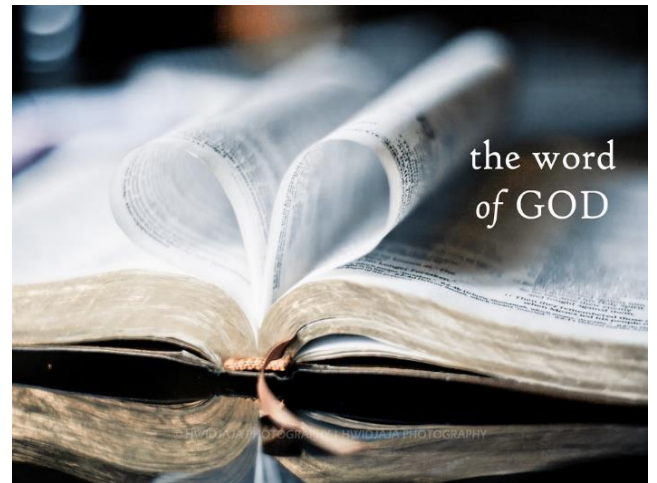
Begin 2023 with an afternoon with crafters. This group of women enjoy knitting and crocheting, but more importantly they enjoy the friendships that have formed. Even if crafts and needlework are not your thing, you are more than welcome to come for the conversation and camaraderie that is sure to ensue. Gatherings are in the Bohn Parlor at 1:00 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Join us on **January 19th.**

DHUMC Together In The Word

Sunday January 22, 2023

(9:15 am in the Prayer Chapel)

As we start a new year and celebrate the 100-year anniversary of our church, we are reminded of God's faithfulness and the incredibly great gift of the Word. Beginning **Sunday January 22nd**, and each week thereafter, 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.

Garden News – They're Here!

They're here! They're here! The plants are in the ground and DHUMC has a new garden at the corner of Burmont and Bloomfield. The area that suffered from the "Miracle on Burmont" helicopter incident has received a new life, funded by the helicopter's insurance company. Fine Gardens Creations was chosen to install plantings that would be attractive to us and appealing to all of God's creatures, great and small. The yews that cushioned the helicopter's descent have been removed and new life has taken their place.



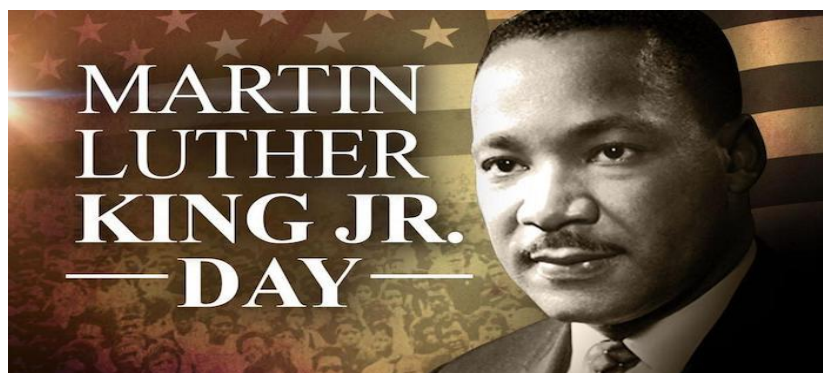
Although November seemed late in the year to be planting, we need not worry because Fine Gardens has guaranteed the plants for the first year. Winter has recently arrived, but we can already anticipate the garden's beauty unfolding in the spring.

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.

JANUARY 16TH



Christmas Decorations Brighten Holidays!

The Sanctuary was decorated for the Christmas holiday with beautiful poinsettias and a live Christmas Tree. Thank you to all the volunteers who decorated the Sanctuary and purchased the poinsettias and Christmas tree to make our holidays bright!



Outreach Committee News

Christmas Card Drive



Five families from the Upper Darby School District had a brighter Christmas because of our generosity. We donated \$1,760 in gift cards to these families. Each family received about \$350. Wendy Elgart, the head social worker in the district picked up our gift and express her gratitude and that of the families. Look for more information on our upcoming Valentine project for our shut-ins.

Upper Darby Food Bank



We are getting many new families and pre-covid families coming back because of the high food prices and food stamps don't go as far. People were able to get food many different places this year. We have been overwhelmed with donations from The Agnes Irwin School, Aronomink, Garretford, Hillcrest and Highland Park Schools as well as the Boy Scouts. 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. **We will open again on January 2nd.**

Santa's Helpers Make Christmas Cookies!

On Sunday, December 18th after our service, members from our church got together in the Rainbow Room to bake and pack Christmas cookies. The cookies were delivered along with a poinsettia to our member who can no longer attend church services. It was a fun, worthwhile fellowship! Thanks to all of our volunteers for lending some holiday cheer!



Happy Birthdays in January!



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

1/7- Rev. Russell Atkinson
3212 School Lane
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
pastor@dhum.org

1/31 – Gardia Daniels
102 Lafayette Avenue
Darby, PA 19023

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
Diane Volpe
Jane Todd

sallyannemullin@gmail.com
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docnea@verizon.net
acmullinv@gmail.com
office@dhum.org
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

January 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|-----------|--|--------|----------|
| 1 New Year's Day | 2 Upper Darby Food Bank Open | 3 Bible Study/ Fellowship Hour | 4 | 5 Bacon, Toast & Heavenly Host | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Baptism of Our Lord Sunday | 9 Administrative Meeting 7pm | 10 Bible Study/ Fellowship Hour | 11 | 12 Gun Violence Focus Meeting 5:30pm | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Second Sunday After Epiphany | 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | 17 Bible Study/ Fellowship Hour | 18 | 19 Crafters and Fellowship Meetup 1pm | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Third Sunday After Epiphany/ Together In The Word | 23 | 24 Bible Study/ Fellowship Hour | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Fourth Sunday After Epiphany | 30 | 31 Bible Study/ Fellowship Hour | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | In February: Outreach Committee Valentine Project | | | | |

