



Ministry @ DHUMC

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

November, 2023

www.dhum.org

Something Bigger Than Ourselves

Pastor's Message

What a marvelous blessing to be here at Drexel Hill United Methodist Church during its 100th Anniversary year! Certainly, being individuals means we can experience certain freedoms. Even so, there are blessings that come from belonging to communities.

I am only one person. I have no more strength in my limbs than what is necessary to push a wheelbarrow, let alone move a mountain. I have no more intellect than is required to slowly read a dense book, prepare a simple income tax form, or make a ten-minute public address. I am just one of the perhaps 6.5 billion human-beings on this planet. I am a very small part of civilization and existence. And yet, all of these true statements do not define me so very well. You see, I am surrounded by a great host of witnesses!

Here is another set of true statements. Being part of the communion of saints makes our hearts as big as this wide world! We are part of something much larger than our individual selves. We love not just with our love; it is the love of God and all the saints

alive within us. When the Spirit of Jesus is in our hearts, all who have lived their lives in the Spirit are also there. Who has shaped you into a faithful person? Parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents; teachers and their teachers; pastors and their pastors; spiritual guides and their spiritual guides— they are all here within us; all the holy women and men who form that long lineage of love through the ages. They are all part of our hearts, where the Spirit of God is pleased to dwell.

I am not Martin Luther or Martin Luther King, Jr., Jeanne d'Arc or Joan Chittister, Billy Graham or Graham Greene, St. Barbara or Barbara Brown Taylor, and yet, we share in the presence of the saints in our hearts. I may never defend the Bible against heresy in the hierarchy of the church, convert pagans, care for the wounded masses of Calcutta, or speak the gospel to a stadium full of starving souls. Still, I am, and we are, folded in with the ones who have and do.

This great cloud of witnesses is not at all depending for continuance upon being an

association of like-minded people. It is first and last the community of our hearts.

Bless you in your discipleship,

Russell J. Atkinson



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A monthly newsletter for the membership of DHUMC.

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Coffee and Conversation



Please join 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 Men's Fellowship Hour

Time: 11 am to 11:50 am, Tuesdays



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.



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 2, 2023**. An enthusiastic, designated lay person will lead the devotion this month.

Poinsettias for the Altar

We will be taking orders again this holiday for poinsettias to decorate the altar on December 17th, Christmas Eve and December 25th. The poinsettias are from Miller Greenhouses in Wallingford. Please fill out an order form that you will find in the upcoming bulletins or in the Narthes on **November 26th, December 3rd or December 10th**. Last day to order will be **December 10th**. The plants will still be \$10.00 each. Let's fill our Sactuary with beautiful poinsettias this Christmas season!



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.

A New Survey....

Be On the Lookout!

During the month of November there will be an opportunity for everyone who attends Drexel Hill United Methodist Church to share their thoughts and ideas regarding our church and plans for the future. A 10-question survey will be available for the next few Sundays to gather ideas, comments, dreams and suggestions. Please make sure your voice is included by taking the time before or after the service to fill out the survey and place it in a box at the back of the sanctuary. All responses will be considered and compiled as a first step to looking to our future. Thank you for taking a few extra minutes of your Sunday morning to participate in this vital project. We need your impute to plan new directions for our church. Surveys will be mailed to those who are active but no longer attend in person.



Russell Atkinson, Pastor

November Worship Services

All Saints Sunday

November 5, 2023
Revelation 7:9-17,
Matthew 5:1-2
Rev. Thomson-Hohl will be
the guest pastor

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 2023
Joshua 24:1-3a,
Matthew 25:1-13
Rev. Thomson-Hohl will be
the guest pastor.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023
Judges 4: 1-7,
Matthew 25: 14-30
Rev. Nancy Hawes will be
the guest pastor.

Reign of Christ

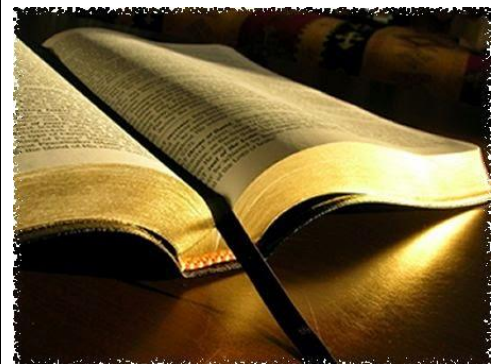
November 26, 2023
Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24,
Matthew 25:31-46
“What is Eternal?”



November 7th Election Day

Lay Reader Schedule for November

- 5 Alex Mullin
- 12 Cindy Carper
- 19 David O’Connell
- 26 Carol Martsolf





November Worship Notes



The saints are God's holy people. Paul refers to those who belong to Christ as "holy people" or "saints." Eugene Peterson's Bible paraphrase, *The Message*, has Paul sending a letter to those "cleaned up by Jesus and set apart for a God-filled life." (1 Corinthians 1:2). This sanctity is the work of the Spirit of Jesus. Paul again says, "Nothing between us and God, our faces shining in the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him. (2 Corinthians 3:18, Peterson's paraphrase). As saints we belong to that large network of God's people that shines like a multitude

of stars in the dark sky of the universe.

Remember our saints:

Dal Byers
Sylvia Nespotali
Lowell Toenssen

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

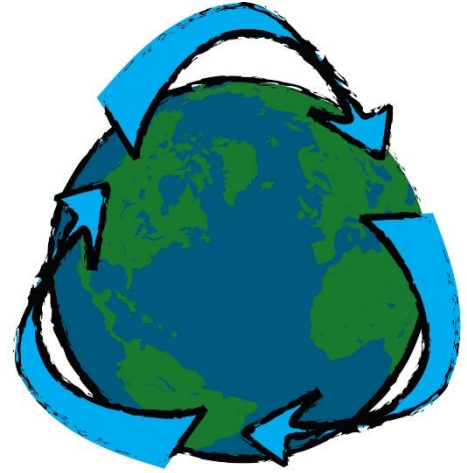
sallyannemullin@gmail.com
chuckster242@comcast.net
dmatarazzo90@gmail.com
giveemhelen@aol.com
keithmchase@gmail.com
docnea@verizon.net
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Please contact Pastor Atkinson at 610.259.2104 and he will get you in touch with a leader in your area of interest.

In Defense of Creation

Eco-tips

We are united because we are all part of God's creation. Climate change unites us all on another level. Our homes and transport are responsible for about a third of carbon emissions in the United States. But we can all make a difference. If you are interested in an eco-friendlier way of living, then make a commitment to cut your carbon outputs. Here are some tips and expert advice from the organization Christian Aid to get you started:



- 1) Fit energy-efficient light bulbs and save \$15-20 a year per bulb on your bill. When buying new appliances choose the most energy efficient.
- 2) Switch to a renewable electricity provider – check out wind, solar, and hydro-electric providers. Remember to turn off your appliances when not in use – you could save on average \$75 a year.
- 3) Insulate your home for a warmer, cheaper and 'greener' winter. Double glaze windows, and consider cavity-wall insulation. Use draft excluders, put aluminum foil behind radiators, cover up keyholes and close doors. Turn your heating down (for most winters, the first degree down could save ten per cent on your bill) and use the timer.
- 4) Save money and provide up to half your total water consumption by installing a simple rainwater tank. Remember to turn the faucet off when brushing your teeth and have a shower instead of a bath.
- 5) Save food miles and airplane emissions by buying locally produced food when available. Sign up to an organic delivery scheme which also supports fair trade. Alternatively, plant your own fruit and vegetables. Make the most of your kitchen waste by turning it into compost.
- 6) Where possible, use public transport, bike, or walk. And check out eco-cars!
- 7) Recycle, recycle, recycle! Landfill sites are a big producer of methane – a greenhouse gas.
- 8) Rediscover the pleasures of local vacations or look into responsible tourism – offset your air-miles and choose a vacation that will benefit the community you are visiting.
- 9) Enjoy the taste of fair-trade chocolate and coffee! These goods are not only fair trade but also partly owned by the farmers that grow the cocoa beans.
- 10) Finally, give a tithe of your savings to Drexel Hill United Methodist Church so your congregation can green itself also!



Nursery School News

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 Tuesday, November 7 for Election Day and Wednesday, November 22 – Friday, November 24 for Thanksgiving. We are looking forward to a visit from Mrs. Claus in

December. We now have 16 children in our four-day class and 7 children in our three-day class. We would still like to increase our numbers in the three-day class.

We wish you all a happy Thanksgiving!



Photos by Jennifer Ryan and Denise McCarthy

Heading God's Call and DHUMC Held Peaceful Anti-Gun Violence March in October

CBS News



With song and prayer, dozens of people from the faith community gathered in Drexel Hill to say no to gun violence.

"Even though Philadelphia has a formidable challenge, so does Delaware County. Suburbs have gun violence problems as well," said Pastor Russell Atkinson, who works for the United Methodist Church in Drexel Hill.

To raise awareness, the group marched from the Incarnation Holy Sacrament Episcopal Church to Drexel Hill United Methodist Church about a mile away, where a large memorial stands out front.





There are 174 T-shirts representing each person lost to gun violence in Delaware County in the last five years.

"My best friend, her son was killed by an assault weapon. It's like an epidemic. And we need to protect our children," Deacon Diane Faison from St. Francis in the Fields said.

"The people at this march believe laws need to be changed to prevent gun violence. They're urging people to write letters to their state and federal lawmakers demanding action." Bryan Miller is the founder of Heeding God's Call, the nonprofit that organized the march. He said limiting handgun purchases would make gun trafficking less profitable to criminals, thereby reducing violent crime.

To him, the issue is personal. His brother, FBI agent Mike Miller, was shot and killed on the job decades ago.

Miller has since made it his mission to bring churches, synagogues and mosques together to fight for a safer tomorrow for everyone.



New Rope Installed on Chapel Bell

By Alex Mullin

Jim Hatten arranged for the Garretford - Drexel Hill Fire Company to bring their ladder truck October 23rd to install a new rope on the McBurney Chapel bell. The bell sat for many years with no rope until a new one was attached so the bell could be rung on the 90th Anniversary. But since that time the rope deteriorated and finally fell apart. The bell was rung on October 29th to start our year of recognition for the Church's 100 years in Drexel Hill. Thanks to the Garretford-Drexel Hill Fire Company for their assistance.



Picture by Alex Mullin

Upper Darby Food Cupboard

The Food Cupboard gets very busy on November because of the Thanksgiving holiday. Unfortunately, no one gives us turkeys anymore. Our hours are the same except we will be closed on November 23rd and 24th for the holiday. We appreciated the personal products that Carol Hatten gave us. There is always a need for these as food stamps can't be used for these items. We take donations on all our open hours. 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.



Crafters & Fellowship Meetup



The crafters are back putting their needles to work making a variety of items. In the past, the group has focused on making prayer shawls, lap robes, and baby blankets for members of our congregation. In September the group was able to donate items to the Nationalities Service Center for refugees with chronic pain. Anyone is welcome to join the group for a few hours of fellowship on the third Thursday of the month. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet, someone will be glad to get you started. If you

have a craft you would like to share, please come to the Bohn Parlor on **November 16th** at 1:00 p.m.



Veterans
DAY

November 11th

Outreach Committee News

COATS AND BLANKET COLLECTION

What a wonderful response to our coat and blanket drive! Our church was filled with beautiful coats, blankets and handmade crochet scarves. Thank you so much! They were delivered to The Life Center at 63rd and Market Street. Pastor Atkinson blessed our contributions at the service on October 22nd. We are most grateful to everyone for your generosity.



Pastor Atkinson blesses the contributions at the Sunday service in October.



Coats and blankets on display ready to be blessed and taken to the center.
Photos by Helen Campbell, Jane Todd and Keith Chase.

NOVEMBER THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

We have been providing food at Thanksgiving to families from the Upper Darby School District for decades. This year we are collecting gift cards. This is easier for us and the social workers. The families appreciate the autonomy of doing their own shopping. We are suggesting gift cards from supermarkets like Acme and Giant or from Target or Walmart. Please bring your gift cards to church or send them to the office by Sunday, **November 19th**. Thank you for including a deserving family as part of your Thanksgiving.



This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share our blessings with others in our community. Thank you for contributions to this project and all of our projects throughout the year.

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 Janedt@verizon.net.

11/14 Fran Roberts
4500 Marvine Avenue
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

11/20 John Campbell
410 Alexander Avenue
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

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

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church Calendar



november

2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
30 October	31	1 November	2 9 am Bacon Toast and Heavenly Host	3	4/5 9 am DHUMC Together In the Word All Saints Sunday
6	7 ELECTION DAY 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship Nursery School Closed	8	9	10	11/12 9 am DHUMC Together In the Word 24 th Sunday After Pentecost
13	14 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	15	16 1 pm Crafters & Fellowship Meetup	17	18/19 9 am DHUMC Together In the Word 25 th Sunday After Pentecost
20	21 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	22 Nursery School Closed for Thanksgiving	23 Food Cupboard Closed	24 Food Cupboard Closed	25/26 9 am DHUMC Together In the Word Christ the King Sunday
27	28 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	29	30	1 December	2/3
4	5	6	7	8	9/10