

# Ministry @ DHUMC

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

June, 2023

www.dhum.org

## Hey, Hey. Anybody care?

### *Pastor's Message*

*"See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them".*

*Instead, he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result,*

*Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere. Mark 1:40-45*

An old camp song contains these lines: "Hey, hey, anybody listening? Hey, hey, anybody care?" I imagine the healed leper in the Bible story singing such. He was not big on following instructions but he was overflowing with joy at having a new life! He had been one way, but following an encounter with Jesus, he was changed. Caring is the vital factor in Christian expression. I have been playing with an analogy lately - to the extent that a congregation is God's intensive care unit for the Spirit in the world, we need to understand the theology and dynamics of caring. Although the laity occasionally supplement and even substitute for the clergy, the laity are far beyond being the clergy's "right hand" or junior care givers.

Certainly, the clergy have a ministry of caring. It includes envisioning and expressing what a caring community looks like and modeling caregiving through the pastoral occasions provided by the life of the congregation. Also, the clergy have the task of defining,

encouraging, enabling, and supporting the laity in their own, special ministries of caring.

The laity have a caring ministry arguably more important than that of the clergy. The ministry of the laity is located about 1% of the time in the church and about 99% of the time in the world. In the church, the caring of the laity is expressed through joys and concerns during the worship service, visiting the sick with news of the service, taking meals to families facing particular challenges, email, card, and letter ministries, and a variety of personal initiatives. In the world, the ministry of the laity is in homes, offices, classrooms, school boards, laboratories, traffic, shopping malls - wherever human beings make connection with human beings. That lay ministry has at least four kinds of caring that people can do for one another: praying, touching, listening, and action.

Pray for all manner and condition of life. Praying doesn't manipulate the will of God, but it heightens our awareness. Prayer opens us up to God's voice.

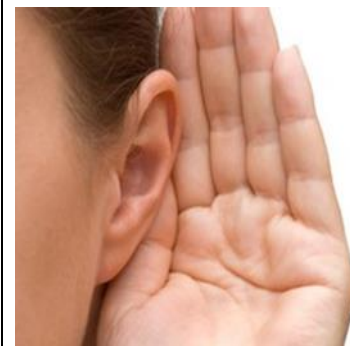
Do not be afraid to touch someone in kindness. We must be conscious and careful as we touch in this day and age, and yet, there is no substitute for touch, and the older we get the more hugs and kisses we need.

Practice the precious ministry of listening. Take time to hear what people say and what they don't say. Listening creates space for others to come in, and political listening creates space for peace and justice. Caring means listening seriously to the captains and the kings and also the meek and the lowly. Action on what we have seen and heard is the witness par excellence. What we do after we have listened is mighty important to caring whether we stand in a cloud of tear gas, visit a housebound person, or leap for joy like the leper.

"Hey. Hey. Anybody care?"

May God's blessing be upon your ministry,

Russell J. Atkinson



## **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.

## **Ministry@DHUMC**

A monthly newsletter for the membership of DHUMC.

Administrative Assistant  
Editor & Circulation:  
Diane Volpe  
office@dhum.org  
610-259-2104

Submissions:  
Email Diane Volpe at [office@dhum.org](mailto:office@dhum.org) no later than the third Sunday of each month to have items included in the newsletter.

Church Office:  
Pastor Russell Atkinson  
[pastor@dhum.org](mailto:pastor@dhum.org)  
Email/Phone:  
[office@dhum.org](mailto:office@dhum.org)  
610-259-2104



## **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 **June 1, 2023**. Hope to see you there!



## **Administrative Council Meeting**

The next meeting of the Administrative Council will be on Monday, **June 12th**, beginning at 7:00 p.m. As in the past, the meeting will be conducted on Zoom, so shortly before 7:00 please look for Pastor Atkinson's invitation to log in. If you aren't a member of the Council but would like to sit in on this meeting, please contact the church office at [office@dhum.org](mailto:office@dhum.org) or Becky Harbison at [rrharbison@verizon.net](mailto:rrharbison@verizon.net), and you will be added to the Zoom invitation list.

The Administrative Council does not have any scheduled meetings in July and August but will resume meeting on a regular basis on **September 11, 2023**. Have a wonderful summer!





Russell Atkinson, Pastor

## June Worship Services

### Trinity Sunday

June 4, 2023

Genesis 1:1-4a

Matthew 28:16-20

“Power, Commission,  
Presence”

### Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 11, 2023

Genesis 12:1-9

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

### Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 18, 2023

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

Matthew 9:35-10:23

“A Sublime Madness in the  
Soul”

### Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 25 2023

Genesis 21:8-21

Matthew 10:24-39

“The Birth of a Butterfly”



## Lay Reader Schedule for June

- 4 Jane Leggieri
- 11 Sally Mullin
- 18 Barbara Felton
- 25 Becky Harrison



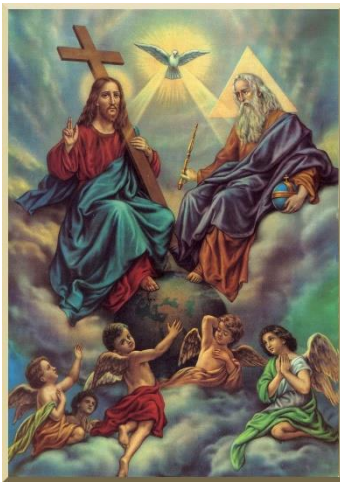
**June 18, 2023**





# Words of Worship for June

The season after Pentecost is a time for serious, focused study of Scripture. In the Common Lectionary, the Hebrew Scripture lessons, beginning with Trinity Sunday (June 4th), provide a series of twenty-three readings from the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible), from the creation to the death of Moses, and conclude the season with texts from the Books of Joshua and Judges that take the story through the conquest and into the period of the judges. But that takes us all the way to December! This article is just about the lessons for June. Matthew is the Gospel for continuous study this year. The advantage of such semicontinuous selections is that we get to hear and reflect upon single Gospel account in some depth. The disadvantage, of course, is that often on given Sundays the themes of the texts do not converge. Our first lesson may have nothing to do with the Gospel lesson, they just happen to be in the same worship service.



Our lessons on **Trinity Sunday, June 4th**, will be Genesis 1:1-2:4a, and Matthew 28:16-20. Trinity Sunday was introduced into the liturgical cycle of the church as the celebration of a doctrine. At worship this day, reflect upon that doctrine, but, more than that, they direct attention to the reality that called forth the doctrine in the first place. In the biblical tradition, the one God is experienced as transcendent Creator, as incarnate, and as present in and among the lives of believers. The Hebrew Scripture reading, the classic account of creation by the Priestly Writer, portrays God as the Creator of a magnificent, orderly universe. The Gospel, Matthew's concluding section, contains pronouncements in the name of the triune God.

**The Second Sunday After Pentecost, June 11th**, brings us the call of Abraham and his response (Genesis 12:1-9), initiating the history of salvation that will find its center in the exodus from Egypt. Our Gospel lection (Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26) has two parts: the account of Jesus' controversy with the Pharisees because tax collectors and sinners followed him and ate with him (which, it should be noted, concludes with an explicit quotation from Hosea 6:6) and Jesus' healing of the synagogue leader's daughter.

**June 18th is the Third Sunday After Pentecost**, our lections for the morning are Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7 and Matthew 9:35-10:23; a generous portion of readings, but intriguing narrative, nevertheless. Our Hebrew Scripture reading, the promise and birth of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah, follows as a natural sequel to last week's lesson. The Gospel lection reports how Jesus taught and preached the good news of the kingdom and how he began to commission the Twelve. The additional verses highlight the cost of discipleship.

**The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost, June 25th**, has Genesis 21:8-21 and Matthew 10:24-39 as our lessons. The Hebrew Scripture reading relates the moving story of the rejection of Hagar and Ishmael and their eventual rescue by God. Following on last week's account of God's fulfillment of the promise to Abraham and Sarah through the birth of Isaac, today's text provides an important statement about the extension of God's gracious care beyond a single hereditary line. In Matthew 10:24-39, Jesus instructs the disciples about how they should relate to their master, reassures them by distinguishing between their seeming adversaries and their true Adversary, clarifies the nature of true and false confession, and honestly confronts them with the critical choices disciples have to make.

# Events & News Around Our Community

## DHUMC Response to Gun Violence Update

Thanks to everyone for all the work that went into successful celebrating community health and music fair on Saturday, May 13th. On Sunday, **June 26, 2023** following the service we will have 30-minute meeting to just step back and consider other potential future effort(s) for our Response to Gun Violence. The brief plan presented in February will be reviewed. It includes several areas in addition to the community connection area that the Fair was about. The Fair was one more important building block along the way with some wonderful community connections with neighbors and partners.



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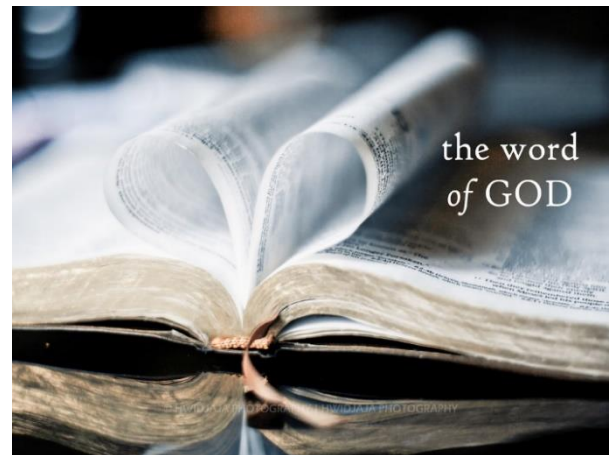
## Crafters & Fellowship Meet Up



The Crafters and Fellowship group ended the year's activity by gathering at Charlotte's Restaurant for lunch. We look forward to meeting again in September and hope to see anyone interested in friendly conversation and hand-crafts. Hope to see you there!

## DHUMC Together In The Word

**Sundays** (9:15 am in the Prayer Chapel)  
Summer is an excellent time to jump into the conversation - or to just listen and reflect. Please join us for a 30-minute weekly informal applied exploration of the Word. On nice days might even move outdoors - to be determined.



## 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](mailto:pastor@dhum.org)) if you would like to be included on the Zoom invitation.

# Nursery School News



In May we celebrated “Muffins with Mom” where the children sang special songs, served muffins and lemonade, and presented handmade gifts to their moms. Both the moms and children were very excited! We have almost completed our alphabet books, are looking forward to some fun summer related crafts, and playing in the courtyard.

Our school year ends Friday, June 9th. Registration is still ongoing for the 2023-2024 school year. Please share with family and friends that we have availability in our 3- and 4-year-old classes. 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!



**June 14, 2023**

## Gardening News



Many of the plants on the church grounds are doing well in spite of the lack of rain. The weeds are growing at full speed in the new bed on the corner of Bloomfield and Burmont. Everyone should feel free to pull a few whenever they walk by. Also please let Barbara O'Connell (610-348-9129) know if you are willing to spend a half hour watering once or twice over the summer.

## Upper Darby Food Bank



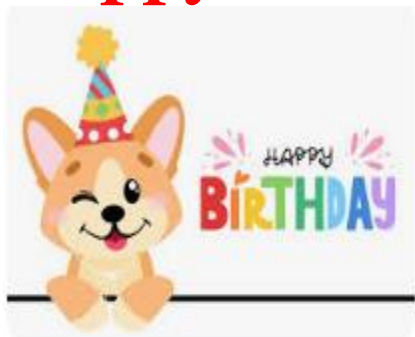
We continue to stay very busy. More immigrants coming into the area is a challenge because of the language barriers. Also, the SNAP program has been cut which has made our mission harder. But we have very dedicated volunteers and are grateful for all the generous donations to our food bank. Thanks go out to 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.

**It's Summer! June 21<sup>st</sup>**





# Happy Birthdays in June!



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

6/15 - Rev. Nancy Haigh Ross  
1915 Acorn Lane  
Abington, PA 19001  
pastor.nancy@yahoo.com

6/18 - Mandy Mullin  
40 Overlook Drive  
Norristown, PA 19403  
mullin.amanda@gmail.com

## 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.

**The Ministry at DHUMC Newsletter will take a break for July and August and return in September. See you then!**

# Drexel Hill United Methodist Church Calendar

june					2023	
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN	
29 May	20	31	<b>1 June</b> 9 am Bacon, Toast	2	3/4 DHUMC Together In the Word Trinity Sunday	
5	6 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	7	8	9 School Year Ends	10/11 DHUMC Together In the Word Second Sunday after Pentecost	
12	13 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	14 Flag Day	15	16	17/18 DHUMC Together In the Word Third Sunday after Pentecost Father's Day	
19	20 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	21	22	23	24/25 DHUMC Together In the Word Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	
26	27 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	28	29	30	1/2 July	
3	4	5	6	7	8/9	

