

Ministry @ DHUMC

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

March, 2023

www.dhum.org

NOW

Pastor's Message

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

Psalms 139:16

I had a distracting experience in my late 20s when someone asked me my age, and for the first time in my life, I became conscious that I honestly couldn't remember. Was I 28 or 29? I was pleased and relieved when I did the math and discovered I was only 28. In media advertising we are bombarded with images telling us how 'Product X' will help us deny the aging process and astound our friends at how young we look; incidentally, if you do a little analysis . . . the actors in such commercials are in their 20s and the target audience is the 60+ crowd. Either that or there is heavy investment in the somewhat small potential of selling denture fixative and funeral plans to a demographic that never prepared for Y2K.

Does it bother me that I am getting old? Well, yes! I don't like the extra effort it takes to shed weight and I don't like the loss of balance. I won't start talking about my teeth. But on another level, I can honestly say getting older doesn't bother me in the least; I can't seem to get a grip on where all the years have gone but I don't feel any different than when I was 58 or 18 (as long as I stay still). I take a lot of comfort from Psalm 139 where it says our days are written before our days came to be. For me the important thing to remember is that God has given us our span of days. Now, what we do with them is the vital question! And if we are unsatisfied with what we've done with our lives, we can amend our lives beginning today, starting right now.



*Dying, Christ destroyed our death.
Rising, Christ restored our life.
Christ will come again in glory.
As in baptism we put on Christ,
so in Christ may we be clothed with glory.
Here and now, dear friends,
we are God's children.
What we shall be has not yet been revealed;
but we know that when he appears,
we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.
Those who have this hope purify themselves
as Christ is pure. Amen.*

Russell J. Atkinson

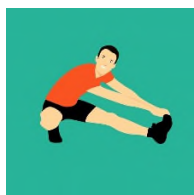


Coffee and Conversation



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](tel:610-259-2104)

Submissions:

Email Diane Volpe at 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

Email/Phone:

office@dhum.org/[610-259-2104](tel: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 **March 2, 2023**. Hope to see you there!



DHUMC Response to Gun Violence

We are starting to prepare for our community music and wellness event on Saturday **May 13, 2023**. Volunteer opportunities will abound. Save this date!

One of our focus areas for our response is community connection. In the next few weeks there will be opportunities to volunteer to help plan, prepare, promote and set up for the May 13th event in which this property will be used to promote wellness to our neighbors. Please remain in prayer and be ready to serve.

New Directory Coming in March!

The Membership Committee has updated the DHUM church directory. You can pick up a copy on Sunday or copies will be distributed by mail or in person to people who are unable to attend church regularly. This is an internal directory and will not be listed online.



Russell Atkinson, Pastor

March Worship Services

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023
Genesis 12: 1-4a
John 3:1-17
“Ambiguity”

Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023
Exodus 17:1-7
John 4:5-42

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023
1 Samuel 16:1-13
John 9:1-41

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023
Ezekiel 37:1-14
John 11:1-45



Lay Reader Schedule for March

- 5 Cindy Carper
- 12 David O’Connell
- 19 Carol Martsolf
- 26 Keith Chase



March 17, 2023





February Worship Notes

Lenten Themes

Lent has seen the reintroduction of the Psalter to our worship. The practice of reading a psalm aloud together in worship has been, and still is, a practice of rote learning and the punctuation of the text with a sung response goes back to the recording of the Psalms themselves. Our Sunday morning scripture gathering, “Together in the Word” (9:45-9:30pm) will consider the psalm for the day before the service begins.



The leading concerns of the texts for the First Sunday in Lent were temptation, sin, and the effects of sin. The lections selected emphasized the account of the initial sin by the first two human beings, their disobedience of the divine command, but these verses are best seen in their context.

As we move deeper into Lent, water is the dominant motif of the texts. The Third Sunday in Lent, March 3rd, leads in various ways to reflection upon human need and divine grace. The Exodus 17:1-7 lesson is one of the many accounts of the people of Israel complaining in the wilderness, in this case because of thirst. The Lord’s response is to tell Moses how to bring water from the rock. The psalm, a liturgy of praise, responds directly to Exodus 17, celebrating God’s care for God’s people and admonishing them with the example of the complainers in the wilderness. The Gospel lesson is the account of Jesus at the well in Samaria, offering living water to the Samaritan woman.

March 12th is the first full day of the new Daylight Savings clock. Spring forward!

In their contrasts between life and death, the texts for March 26th anticipate Easter. However, all of them focus much more upon the life of the people of God this side of the grave than upon the resurrection as such. Ezekiel’s vision of the valley of dry bones is a prophecy that the people of Israel, dead in exile, will live again on their land. Our morning psalter, Psalm 131 is an individual complaint song, a prayer that the Lord, who redeems Israel and is motivated by his “steadfast love” will save the person in trouble. John 11 is the account of Jesus’ raising of Lazarus from the dead.

Obviously, we are being drawn toward Easter, but as April begins we still have Palm Sunday and Holly Week before Easter arrives April 9th.

Events & News Around Our Community

Crafters & Fellowship Meetup

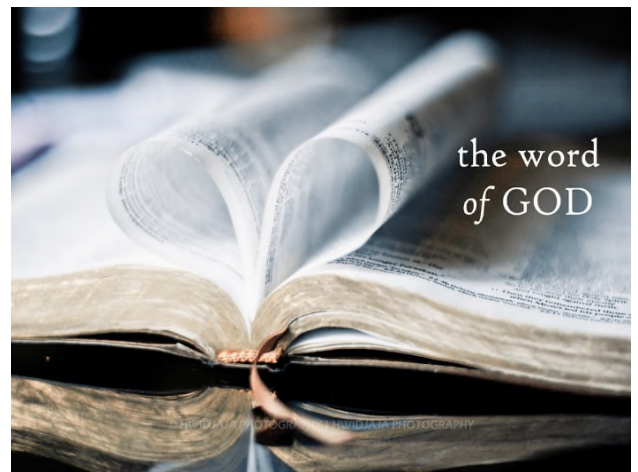


Enjoy our community with an afternoon with crafters. This group of women enjoy knitting and crocheting, but more importantly they enjoy the friendships that have formed. Even if crafts and needlework are not your thing, you are more than welcome to come for the conversation and camaraderie that is sure to ensue. Gatherings are in the Bohn Parlor at 1:00 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Join us on **March 16th**.

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**, 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.

Nursesey School News

Registration is ongoing for the 2023-2024 school year. Please share with friends and family that we have available spaces for 3- and 4-year-olds.

In March we will have fun with Dr. Seuss, learning about baby animals, and looking for signs of Spring. On St. Patrick's Day, we will follow the leprechauns' footprints in hunt for a pot of gold. We will track the days of the month to see if they are a lion or a lamb day. Now that the weather is getting warmer, the children can't wait to play outside in the courtyard.



Welcome Spring! Calling all Gardners!



Alfred Austin, British poet laureate from 1896-1913, wrote "*The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul.*"

Come feed your body and soul as we welcome spring to the church gardens. **Wednesday, March 29th and Friday, April 1st** will see the beginning of monthly activity around the church. We will gather at 9:00 am to concentrate on spring clean-up of the beds as well as take time to inspect the new plantings on the corner of Burmont and Bloomfield. So, ramp up those daily stretches so you are ready to feed body and soul as we welcome spring to our garden.

Souper Bowl Thank You!

On February 12th, we held our annual Souper Bowl of Caring. Church members and visitors contributed 306 lbs. of food and other useful items to the Upper Darby Food Cupboard. In addition, we received \$230 in cash donations for the food cupboard. Thank you to Barbara O'Connell, Becky Harbison, Carol Hatten and Cindy Carper for sandwiches. Thanks also go to Helen Campbell, Jane Todd, Barbara Felton, Jane Leggieri and Carol Martsoff for providing soups. Yvette Benson helped out with paper products, bowls, spoons and chips. Jim Hatten and Jane Todd helped Alex Mullin pack, weigh and move the donation items. SWe hope to see the Eagles playing in our 2024 Souper Bowl of Caring next year!



Items donated for Souper Bowl Sunday that were given to the Upper Darby Food Cupboard.

Photos by Alex Mullin

Souper Bowl Sunday Activities



Upper Darby Food Bank



THANKYOU! We received a large donation from DHUMC from all the Souper Bowl donations this month and we appreciate all of their efforts! 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.

Thank You from Louise Weesie

This is a very special thank you for everything that was done for our wonderful sister, Frances Conway. A kind deed is like water to a flower. It makes the heart bloom. Thanks for planting a garden in our hearts. Our thank you seems so small compared to all you have done. In memory of our loving sister Frances Conway. We will miss you always.



Valentine Greetings

Curtis & Gardia Daniels sent Valentine blessings: *To all members of Drexel Hill United Methodist Church: May the richest of Blessings be with you all!*



**Set Your Clocks Forward on
March 12th**

Happy Birthdays in March!



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

3/6 – Dan Matarazzo
615 Rively Avenue
Glenolden, PA 19036
dmatarazzo90@gmail.com

3/20 - Jane Todd
174 Hoover Avenue
Norristown, PA 19403
janedt@verizon.net

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
chuckster242@comcast.net
dmatarazzo90@gmail.com
giveemhelen@aol.com
pastor@dhum.org
giveemhelen@aol.com
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

| March | | | | | 2023 | |
|-------------|--|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|--|
| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SAT/SUN | |
| 27 February | 28 | 1 March | 2 9am Bacon, Toast & Heavenly Host | 3 | 4/5 DHUMC Together In the Word Second Sunday in Lent | |
| 6 | 7 9:30am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Hour | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11/12 DHUMC Together In the Word Third Sunday in Lent Daylight Savings | |
| 13 | 14 9:30am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Hour | 15 | 16 4pm Crafters & Fellowship Meetup | 17 St. Patrick's Day | 18/19 DHUMC Together In the Word Fourth Sunday in Lent | |
| 20 | 21 9:30am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Hour | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25/26 DHUMC Together In the Word Fifth Sunday in Lent | |
| 27 | 28 9:30am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Hour | 29 9am Gardening Time | 30 | 31 | 1/2 April | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8/9 | |

