

# Ministry @ DHUMC

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

October, 2023

[www.dhum.org](http://www.dhum.org)

## Grace and Chance: Our Congregation at 100

### *Pastor's Message*

*Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So, the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:15-16*

Recently, we heard the parable of the Laborers and the Vineyard in worship. In the parable, laborers are being swept up at all hours of the day to work in the vineyard. It seems there is not just one, but there are multiple chances to work for the reign of God. The life of our congregation, over these last 100 years has proved similar. Some have gone from task-to-task, while others have arrived at a moment – the degree has been received, the children have grown up, retirement has arrived – when greater involvement has become possible. But what is the character of these second chances?

We like to believe that second chances are either deserved or undeserved. We seem to assume that merit determines their goodness. But that's actually not how second chances work at all. Someone can deserve a second try and yet squander it entirely. Or someone may be entirely undeserving and yet still amaze everyone with what she does with her second chance. Indeed, second chances, like forgiveness, can have a far greater impact on those who don't deserve them than on those who do, like criminals who go on from prison to dedicate

themselves to their local community.

Life is complicated that way. We never really know if the second chance was really deserved until we know what its consequences are. In point of fact, we probably never live entirely up to the second chances we're given. In that sense, we never really deserve them. This is where forgiveness comes in. Jesus repeatedly taught his followers to forgive, not because others may deserve it, but because we ourselves always stand in need of forgiveness, of a second chance. So, even when we disagree when someone else is forgiven or given a second chance, perhaps we can at least be mindful of the times when we've been forgiven and be thankful.

As we launch into this second hundred years of ministry here in Drexel Hill, let us take our chances – firsts, seconds, and hundredths – to be a community of love and forgiveness; the world is hurting for lack of what we have been blessed with for a century.

God of second chances, who has commanded us to forgive even as we are forgiven, help us and others so to make use of second chances that we may give no cause for regret; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Peace,  
Russell J. Atkinson

#### Ministry@DHUMC

A monthly newsletter for the membership of DHUMC.

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

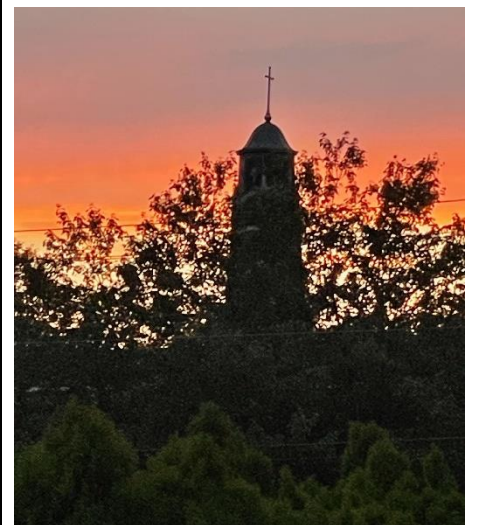
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## **Coffee and Conversation**



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!

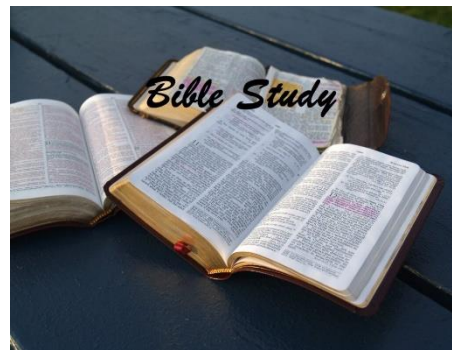
## **Heavy Psalm/Light Exercise Men's Fellowship Hour**

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.



## **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.



## **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 **October 5th**. Hope to see you there!



## **Red Cross Blood Drive**

Please join us on **October 2, 2023** from 2 pm to 7 pm to give blood to the local Red Cross bank. You can maximize your blood donation and help more patients if you are an eligible type O, B or A donor. Please consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.



Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/Rapid Pass](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: DrexelHillUMC to schedule an appointment.



Russell Atkinson, Pastor

## October Worship Services

### **Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

October 1, 2023  
Exodus 17: 1-7  
Matthew 21: 23-32  
“What Do You Think?”

### **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

October 8, 2023  
Exodus 20: 1-4, 12-20  
Matthew 21: 33-46  
“A Heart Larger Than Ours”

### **Heading God’s Call to End Gun Violence**

October 15, 2023  
Exodus 32: 1-14  
Matthew 22: 1-14  
“Voices Uncertain and Certain

### **Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost**

October 22, 2023  
Exodus 33: 12-23  
Matthew 22: 15-22  
“Your Money Is No Good Here”

### **The Centenary of Our Congregation**

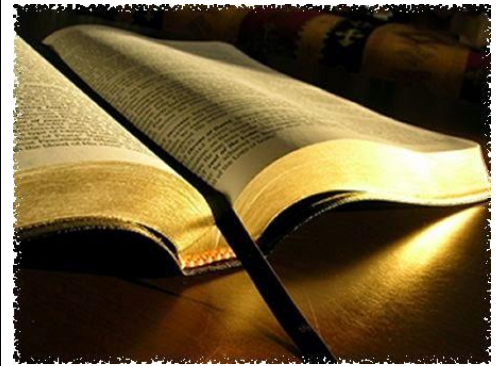
October 29, 2023  
Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
Matthew 22:34-46  
“The Greatest Commandment”

## Columbus Day October 11



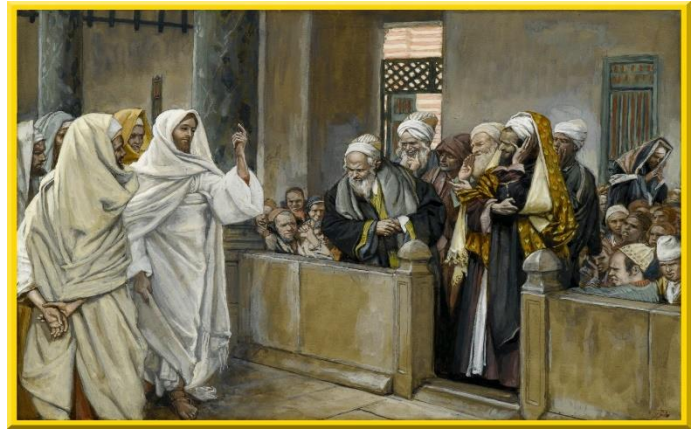
## Lay Reader Schedule for October

- 1 Keith Chase
- 8 Marion Mendimasa
- 9 Jane Leggieri
- 22 Sally Mullin
- 29 Becky Harbison



# Happy Halloween!

# October Worship Notes



## The Authorities

For the next few Sundays in October, the Gospel lessons from Matthew relate encounters of conflict between Jesus and the Jewish religious authorities—chief priests and elders of the people, Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees. The situations described in our October Gospel lessons obviously reflect historical events, both within the ministry of Jesus and within the community that gathered to follow *The Way* of which the writer of Matthew was a part. But our lives in Delaware County and in the United States are different, and there are hazards in making the leap from ancient settings to modern ones, especially since these texts in Matthew are strongly worded. How do we understand these passages today? What claim do they make on our lives?

Pastor Atkinson will be exploring two angles on interpretation this month. First, each Gospel episode is unique and the ancient contexts of each story pretty much prohibit us from generalizing about the Jewish religious authorities. They are pictured throughout Matthew's narrative as something of a caricature, and our modern ears must be on guard not to carry over from the passages, directly or subtly, an anti-Jewish sentiment. What was an intramural struggle among religious parties in the Jewish community in the biblical settings doesn't translate into our society today. Second, we'll want to get hyper-focused and to isolate as discretely as possible the issue that sets the religious and political authorities over against Jesus. Often, it is those issues that have immediate relevance to our modern concerns.

Our worship in October will have two events that are occurring without thought of the lections. On October 15th, we will be participating in a day of focus on Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence. Here is a subject that is not without parallel with Matthean themes of authority and challenge – as our elected officials experience pressure from many quarters where gun violence is concerned.

Lastly, it has fallen to our generation to celebrate one hundred years of ministry by our congregation. October 29th will be the beginning of a year of events and occasions marking our centenary in Drexel Hill. October is the month, in 1923, when the first of three cornerstones were laid on our grounds. We will worship on October 29th in the sanctuary and then proceed to the corner outside McBurney Chapel where this cornerstone stands.

**October 1st** Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
Exodus 17; 1-7; Matthew 21:23-32 "What Do You Think?"

**October 8<sup>th</sup>** Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Matthew 21:33-46 "A Heart Larger Than Ours"

**October 15<sup>th</sup>** Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence  
Exodus 32:1-14; Matthew 22:1-14 "Voices Uncertain and Certain"

**October 2nd** Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost  
Exodus 33:12-23; Matthew 22:15-22. "Your Money is No Good Here"

**October 29<sup>th</sup>** The Centenary of Our Congregation  
Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 22:34-46. "The Greatest Commandment"

# News Around Our Community



## Thank you

**From Sally & Alex Mullin:**

*What a lovely surprise! First to be congratulated during the service and then the yummy cake! We were so happy to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with you all!*



Alex and Sally Mullin celebrate their special day August 18, 1973 and then 50 years later with Pastor Atkinson with a special cake that they shared with their friends at DHUMC.



## Crafters & Fellowship Meetup

The crafters are 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 donated 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 **October 19th** at 1:00 p.m.



## Gardening Volunteers Needed



Be sure to enjoy the last days of color around the church grounds. The dogwood trees and crepe myrtles will be showing off new leaf colors while the perennials hang on to their summer blooms and growth just a few weeks longer. Thanks go out to those who have helped DHUMC become an attractive spot in the community. It has been amazing how many neighbors have stopped to compliment the new plantings in front of the parking lot and on the corner of Burmont and Bloomfield.

Please consider helping prepare the grounds for our celebration of the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone. On Thursday, **October 19th** from 9:00-11:00a.m. help is needed to prepare the grounds for the outside gathering. We will also be doing a light fall clean-up of the beds in preparation for cold weather. Rain date is Friday the 20th.

## October is Adopt a Shelter Dog Month



# Nursery School News

By Denise McCarthy & Jennifer Ryan



The school year has gotten off to a great start! The children are making new friends and learning the classroom routine. On “Red Day” the children wore red, brought in a red show ‘n tell, and painted red crafts.

In October, we will have fun with the color orange, read stories about Fall and Halloween, and listen and dance to spooky music. Lots of Halloween crafts will be coming home.

We are looking forward to our Halloween Parade on October 26th. Weather permitting; we plan to have the parade in the courtyard.

Our four-day, four-year-old class is full. We still have some available spots in the three-day, three-year-old class.



**October 5<sup>th</sup> !  
Is World Teacher's Day**

# DHUMC Response to Gun Violence



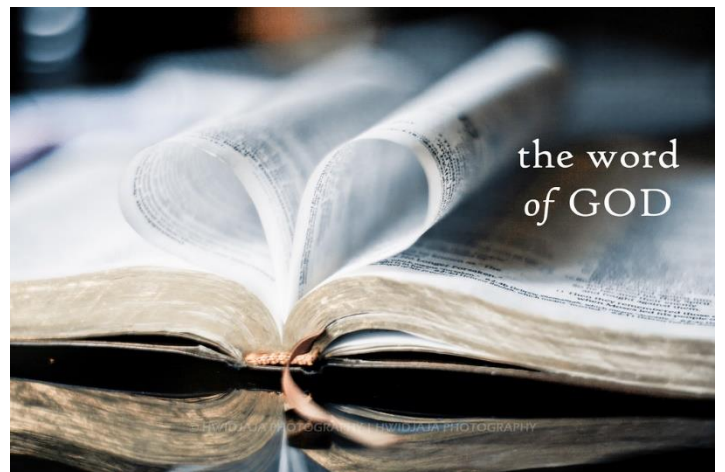
Please help. On Thursday, **October 12<sup>th</sup>**, the 170+ tee-shirts of the Memorial to the Lost will arrive at our church. They will be in need of a laundering before being put on display on our grounds, which will take place on Saturday, **October 14<sup>th</sup>**. Can you please take some shirts on Thursday and have them ready to display on Saturday?

Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence seeks to energize the American faith community and actively seek an end to gun violence through public witness

and policy advocacy. Heeding God's Call promotes public witness and call to action through Gun Violence Awareness Days, Murder Site Witness events, as well as the Memorials to the Lost that we will display at our church in October. **On October 15<sup>th</sup>** a community procession remembering and praying about the senseless loss of so many lives in our own county to gun violence. Announcements will continue regarding ways to assist with the preparations and participate in the Sunday service and community procession that day.

## DHUMC Together In The Word

We will continue to meet and maintain a very informal atmosphere to participate, listen, reflect, etc. The idea of taking on a topical book is still on the back burner but could move up. Please join when you can on Sundays at 9:15 am or whenever you can arrive in the prayer chapel.





# Outreach Committee News



## COATS AND BLANKETS COLLECTION

It's October and the days are getting shorter and cooler and winter will soon be here. It is time for our annual coat and blanket drive. As usual, the new coats and blankets will be given to The Life Center at 63rd and Market Street.

The collection of coats and blankets will take place on **Sunday, October 22, 2023** with a special blessing of our donations. Thank you for providing warmth to the homeless in our community. Please drop off your donations on that Sunday morning or on the Friday before at the church office.

## Upper Darby Food Bank



We continue to get many new families and pre-covid families coming back because of the high food price. *We were able to get Wawa donations back two days a week on Tuesday and Thursdays which makes our clients very happy!* The Broomall Food Bank volunteers are still shopping for us and they pick up food donations for us at the Edgemont Giant and Panera which will be a big help. 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.

# Happy Birthdays in October!

Here are a few birthdays to celebrate in the month of October! 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](mailto:Janedt@verizon.net).



10/14 Alex Mullin  
331 N. Lehigh Circle  
Swarthmore, PA 19081  
[acmullin@gmail.com](mailto:acmullin@gmail.com)

10/21 Yvette Benson  
38-7 Revere Road  
Drexel Hill, PA 19026  
[yvetteben11@verizon.net](mailto:yvetteben11@verizon.net)

10/28 Rev. Nancy Hawes  
2230 Dermond Avenue  
Upper Darby, PA 19082  
610-853-3726

## October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month





# We're Searching for Volunteers

Are you new to our church and/or looking for an opportunity to serve, meet people and make DHUMC a better place? There are many ways to participate. If you are crafty, maybe you could decorate a bulletin board or work on door wreaths or holiday altar decorations. You could help with the after-church coffee social. Delivering flowers to a member can brighten someone's day. Maybe we could add you to our communion guild. You could be a substitute for the counting team. If you would like to plan or work on a social event, that would be much appreciated by all. You could send cards to shut-ins. How about filling in as an usher? If you see yourself helping in other ways, don't hesitate to ask. **See the list of opportunities below...**

## **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

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keithmchase@gmail.com  
docnea@verizon.net  
acmullinv@gmail.com  
[texmomoc@verizon.net](mailto:texmomoc@verizon.net)  
office@dhum.org  
janedt@verizon.net

Please contact Pastor Atkinson at 610.259.2104 and he will get you in touch with a leader in your area of interest.

# Drexel Hill United Methodist Church Calendar

october					2023
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
25 September	26	27	28	29	30/1 October 9 am DHUMC Together In the Word 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost
2 2 -7 pm Red Cross Blood Drive	3 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	4	5 9 am Bacon Toast and Heavenly Host	6	7/8 9 am DHUMC Together In the Word 19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost
9 Columbus Day	10 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	11	12 Heading God's Call	13 Heading God's Call	14/15 9 am DHUMC Together In the Word Heading God's Call Sunday
16	17 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	18	19 1 pm Crafters & Fellowship Meetup  9am Gardening Volunteers	20 Coat Collection Begins	21/22 9 am DHUMC Together In the Word 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost
23	24 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship	25	26	27	28/29 9 am DHUMC Together In the Word The Centenary of our Congregation Sunday
30	31 9:30am Bible Study 11 am Fellowship  Halloween	1 November	2	3	4/5

