

Graduated Response

Pastor's Message

*The men of grace have found glory
begun below;
Celestial fruit on earthly ground
from faith and hope may grow:
Then let our songs abound, and every
tear be dry;
We're marching through Immanuel's
ground, to fairer worlds on high.
Isaac Watts, 1674-1748*

Can we find heaven on earth? This great Isaac Watts poem offers such an exciting image. People of grace have found the beginnings of heaven in this life. Few could reject the creation of heaven on earth as a worthy goal - the challenge is finding where to begin.

Here is an interesting little exercise for the high school or college graduate: write your own obituary! What did you achieve with your life? What are you remembered for? Whom have you left behind? What is your legacy? A clear idea of one's objective is a fine tool for plotting one's course. And this exercise is good too for the rest of us - course corrections are always worth a thought.

Your answers will be of interest to you and those who love you and know you, of course; but others might also be interested in your responses for various reasons. Professor Jean Twenge of San Diego State University, for instance, is interested in collecting data on narcissism (my computer thesaurus gives narcissism synonyms: vanity, and self-absorption). Twenge and her colleagues, in research surrounding narcissism (my

computer thesaurus gives narcissism synonyms: vanity, and self-absorption). Twenge and her colleagues, in research surrounding the contemporary generation gap, examined the responses of 16,475 college students nationwide who completed a narcissism evaluation between 1982 and 2006 (I don't know whether this research remains on-going, but it has been cited this year in *Psychology Today*, so I expect it is still timely).

The researchers describe their study as the largest ever of its type and say students' narcissism scores have risen steadily since the current test was introduced in 1982. By 2006, they said, two-thirds of the students had above-average scores, 30 percent more than in 1982.

If this research is valid, our youths will be living in a different world. I wonder if this is a bad trend. Would our society, populated in the near future by a plurality of narcissists, lament, or even recognize a dearth of humility and modesty? Certainly, by definition narcissists lack empathy. Could our world get along with less empathetic adults than the ones we have now?

Michelangelo's *The Last Judgment* holds the key. In the vast painting Michelangelo portrays the final verdict of the people of the world. The blessed are depicted as kindly regarding one another and helping one another toward heaven. Disturbingly, the damned appear more self-concerned, punching and stepping over one another in a desperate bid to avoid the clutches of hell. As with all worthy art, one can let one's imagination play with the images in *The Last Judgment*. To my mind, the behaviors on display are not the result of the judgement, but were present before anyone was blessed or damned. We have choices to make.

Whatever we find ourselves doing in this life, whether compulsory or of our own choosing, we can do with an eye toward heaven - not some airy-fairy storybook heaven, but rather the heaven where God's love and justice become the stuff of each encounter.

To the graduating class of 2024 I can offer no finer benediction.

Be happy and be a blessing,

Russell J. Atkinson

Coffee and Conversation

Please stop by for 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 and Fellowship Hour



Join us every **Tuesday** at 11 am to 11:50 am where 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.

Crafters and Fellowship Meetup



Our fellowship group will be on hiatus for the summer but we look forward to meeting up again, in September. See you all then and have a great summer!



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 6, 2024**. Hope to see you there!

Ministry@DHUMC

A monthly newsletter for the membership of DHUMC.

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Tuesday Morning Faith Bible Study

The Tuesday Morning Faith Bible Study will be on hiatus for the summer but we look forward to meeting up again in September. Have a great summer.





Russell Atkinson, Pastor

June Worship Services

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 2, 2024
1 Samuel 3:1-20,
Mark 2:23-3:6
“What Do You Think? Good or Evil?”

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 9, 2024
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13
Mark 4:26-34
“Sometimes All by Itself”

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024
1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23,
32-49
Mark 4:35-41
“Why Are You Afraid?”

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 23, 2024
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-6a
“A Pillow From Home”

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

June 30, 2024
First Lesson 2 Samuel
5:1-5, 1-10
Mark 6:1-13
“For Richer For Poorer”



Lay Reader Schedule for June

- 2 Alex Mullin
- 9 Cindy Carper
- 16 Dave O’Connell
- 23 Carol Martsof
- 30 Keith Chase

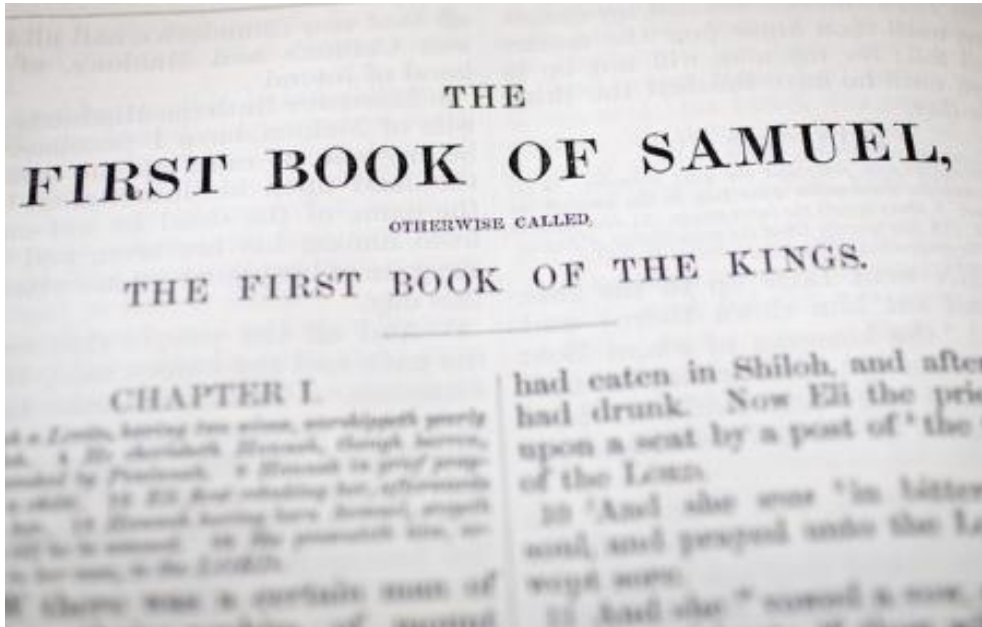
June 16, 2024





June Worship Notes

Take and Read



Though the sermons will all be based on the Gospels in June, following the Hebrew scriptures over the summer will provide an opportunity to learn one of western civilizations most intriguing stories.

The Books of Samuel, 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel, are sections of the narrative history of Israel in the Prophets portion of the Hebrew scriptures, and are

generally considered to belong to the Deuteronomistic history (along with Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings). The Deuteronomistic history is essentially the theological history of the Israelites and seeks to explain God's law for Israel under the guidance of the prophets. According to Jewish tradition, the book was written by Samuel, with additions by the prophets Gad and Nathan; probably the entire Deuteronomistic history was composed in the period c. 630–540 BC.

The book begins with the prophet Samuel's birth and God's call to him as a boy. The story of the Ark of the Covenant that follows tells of Israel's oppression by the Philistines, which brought about Samuel's anointing of Saul as Israel's first king. But Saul proved unworthy and God's choice turned to David, who defeated Israel's enemies and brought the Ark to Jerusalem. God then promised David and his successors an everlasting dynasty. Why not make a commitment this summer to read along in 1st and 2nd Samuel as our lay readers present this ancient story with a contemporary importance.



News Around Our Community

Gardening News by Barb O'Connell



Gardeners needed! Please join us on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. We gather on the patio at the front of the church---hope to see you there on **June 12th!** You may choose to weed, prune, mulch, water, deadhead---whatever suits your fancy. You also get to choose how long you stay. Bring your own tools or share what we have on hand. We gather on the patio at the front of the church---hope to see you there.
Barb O'Connell (610-348-9129).

Upper Darby Food Bank

by Charline Neigh

We are encouraging our clients to come in on Monday or Tuesday if they are interested in getting fresh produce. The Edgemont Giant gives us at least 12 pallets each Monday. We have a volunteer who picks it up and delivers it to us so it's ready when we open at 10am. 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.



Turn in Your Graduates!

We will be recognizing our graduates on **June 9th**.... everyone from pre-school to post graduates students. Please inform the church of your graduate so we can make a proper list of those we will recognize during the service.

Nursery School News

Photo and story by Denise McCarthy & Jennifer Ryan



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 7th**. Registration is still ongoing for the 2024-2025 school year. Please share with

family and friends that we have availability in our 3- and 4-year-old classes.

We are looking for a part-time teacher’s aide for the 2024-2025 school year.

If interested, email dhumns@verizon.net or call 610-259-1444. 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!

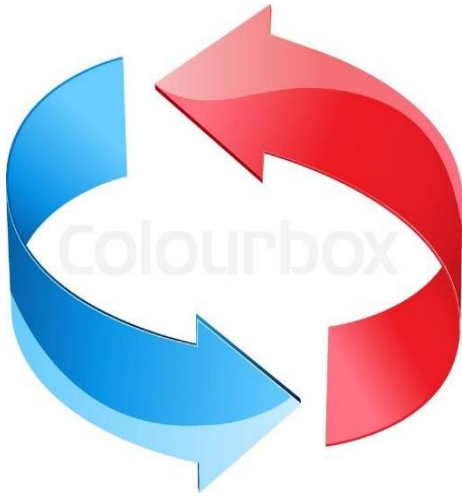
DHUMC Notes of Thanks



From the Shaeffer Family

Thank you so much for the memorial service for Jean. The videos from Alex were proof that it was really “above and beyond”. Love to all, Curly.

New Directions for DHUMC



Huddles will continue through the first four weeks of June. Each week the huddle will be held at 9:15 and again at 11:15am. 30 minutes is the length of the meetings.

Try to attend each week if your schedule permits, providing an opportunity for input and involvement in the early stages of carrying out our strategy. The meetings are about identifying realistic, small steps for advancing each of the five priorities.

Huddles dates include:

Positioning for Families	May 26
Growing Community Connection	June 2
Improving our Facility	June 9
Strengthening Finances and Resources	June 16
Committing to Spiritual Formation and Discipleship	June 23

DHUMC Blood Drive

Please join us for a blood drive at Drexel Hill United Methodist Church on Monday, **June 24, 2024** from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) to schedule an appointment or call 1-800-733-2767.



Blood Drive Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

Rainbow Room
600 Burmont Road
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

**Monday, June 24, 2024
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**



Pentecost Celebration by Alex Mullin

DHUMC celebrated Pentecost on **May 19th** and welcomed former pastor, Rev. Dr. Herb Synder as the guest officiant. The congregation was asked to wear red to represent Pentecost. After the service, a picnic was held on the front porch of the church. Hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken were served up by Miguel Rodriguez, the church sexton. Church members provided the side dishes and dessert. Rev. Synder was presented with a cake celebrating DHUMC becoming a reconciling church. Rev. Synder was instrumental in presenting the idea and seeing it successfully adopted by the congregation.





Photos by Alex Mullin

Oh, Those Wildwood Days...

No, not Bobby Rydell, but the EPA Annual Conference

The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, meeting May 21-23 in Wildwood, NJ., made history, and Drexel Hill UMC representatives and friends were there! Sally Mullin attended as our Lay Delegate and Russell Atkinson as our appointed pastor. Former DHUMC member Sandy Borders and former pastors Herb Snyder and David Eckert were there. Our current District Superintendent, Evelyn Kent-Clark and our previous District Superintendent, Dawn Taylor-Storm were also in attendance.

A conference highlight was an historic and inspiring procession of robed clergy into the annual Service of Commissioning and Ordination—historic because it included the Rev. Irene Elizabeth “Beth” Stroud. Defrocked 20 years ago for her admission to being in a committed relationship with another woman, she was reinstated and warmly welcomed back at a clergy session just before the service. That action allowed her to join again with her peers in the procession, wearing a borrowed clergy stole. Rev. Stroud’s reinstatement—by an overwhelming vote (must be two-thirds, by the Discipline) of the Eastern PA clergy session—was made possible by a May 3 decision of The United Methodist Church’s (postponed) 2020/2024 General Conference to allow for the reinstatement of clergy who were previously defrocked due to their sexual identity. She may be the denomination’s first reinstated clergy member to benefit from that decision.)



Photo Caption: On May 22nd through 23rd, Sally Mullin, Pastor Russell Atkinson and Sandy Borders, member of Exton United Methodist Church and former member of DHUMC, attended the 2024 Belong Conference for Eastern Pennsylvania held in Wildwood, NJ. Our first meal when we went to Conference was at this diner. The Pink Cadillac Diner celebrates Wildwood’s claim (contested) to be the birthplace of Rock’n’roll! In the summer of 1954, Bill Haley and the Comets first performed “Rock Around the Clock” and it was in Wildwood, NJ. **Photos by Alex Mullin.**

Another historic action by this annual conference was its approval on May 22 of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize and extend the 18-month collaborative partnership between the Eastern PA (EPA) and Greater New Jersey (GNJ) conferences—a partnership often referred to as EPA & GNJ. Plainly, the combining of staff responsibilities and pooling of resources makes great sense in a time of rising costs and waning financial resources, but it is becoming quite obvious that this collaboration is yielding great results in ministry as well!

The MOU resolution was co-presented to both annual conferences by their two Connectional Table chairpersons—Lenora Thompson of EPA and the Rev. Iraida Ruiz De Porras of GNJ. Recognizing the hard work and resilient hopefulness invested in forging the proposal, EPA members voted to approve it by a margin of nearly 74 percent. GNJ previously approved it on May 20 by a similar vote tally of about 75 percent. The two conferences met consecutively at the Wildwoods Convention Center—GNJ on May 19-21, and EPA on May 21-23. The dual agreement formalizes the groundbreaking partnership that elected committees, leaders and staff of the two conferences have been working to develop for a year and a half. Now it will allow them to collaborate more in their decision-making, staffing, budgeting and ministry planning.

Both conferences' presenters assured members that the legally non-binding MOU is an "iterative" plan that can be adjusted as needed and will be reviewed and updated by conference leaders and future conference sessions. There were questions and a motion to delay the plan until after the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in July considers possible new conference alignments and episcopal assignments, due to an expected reduction in the number of NEJ bishops.

But presenters—which included EPA's Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer Jo Fielding—explained that the MOU allows for adaptation if there are new conference alignments and affiliations, and if EPA's next bishop wishes to make any changes.



Happy Birthdays in June!



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

6/2 - Carol Martsolf
19 Mansfield Road
Lansdowne, PA 19050
ccmartsolf@gmail.com

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



June 20, 2024



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

sallyannemullin@gmail.com
 chuckster242@comcast.net
 dmatarazzo90@gmail.com
 giveemhelen@aol.com
 keithmchase@gmail.com
 docnea@verizon.net
 acmullinv@gmail.com
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.

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 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
New Directions Huddles for DHUMC June 2 thru June 23 9:15 am & 11:15 am						1
2 Second Sunday after Pentecost	3	4 11am Fellowship Hour	5	6 9 am Bacon, Toast and Heavenly Host	7 Pre-School Year Ends	8
9 Third Sunday after Pentecost	10	11 11am Fellowship Hour	12 9am Gardeners Gather	13	14	15
16 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	17	18 11am Fellowship Hour	19	20	21	22
23 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	24 2pm Blood Drive	25 11am Fellowship Hour	26	27	28	29
30 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost						

