

## Our Centennial Year

### *Pastor's Message*

*Jesus saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day. John 1:39*

#### **Yesterday, Tomorrow and Today**

It's one hundred years ago this month that our congregation celebrated our new beginning. Leaving Broad Street in Philadelphia and opening a new building in the community of Drexel Hill, that was still surrounded by farm fields. Astonishing!

This area would have represented a breath of fresh air, literally. The plan to leave Philadelphia was a sign of the upward economic mobility of the congregation, but also meant living in a much less densely packed community, which would have been especially desirable following the Great Flu Epidemic following the Great War.

Since then, our congregation has seen many a Drexel Hill family form, raise children, and experience retirement – and many other of life's eventualities besides. And being attentive to the sorrows and

joys of such families has been the core of our ministry. That is certainly something to celebrate.

Our mainstream culture tends to party at centennials, but I find myself being reflective. I imagine the generations of those who have walked our halls and attended events in our many rooms. For the faithful, big celebrations can contain a certain alienation, because we remember the struggles and the joys of those who worked alongside us, and who toiled before us, and who will keep the faith when we have passed from this life.

Still, a quiet and pregnant melancholy is not always a bad place to be. Such reflective mood can have its blessings. It is only in the sunless night that we have any chance of seeing the stars. To evoke a Christmas image - the roundness of an expectant mother enroute to Bethlehem is a sign of the divine empathy that lurks hidden in our midst.

Bill Keane was a Philadelphia boy, worked for the old *Philadelphia Bulletin*, and was the cartoonist who drew "Family Circus". He said, "yesterday is history; tomorrow is a mystery; today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present." As we celebrate the past, and look to the future in this centennial month, let us be present to enjoy this moment now!

Loving God, to whom a thousand years are as a day, we do not know the future, but we stand at the cusp of another century, asking your blessing upon those we love and handing them into your care and keeping: body, mind and spirit. And Lord, in your mercy, do not forget us who are in your service here at Drexel Hill United Methodist Church. Amen.

A Happy 100th Drexel Hill Charge.

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

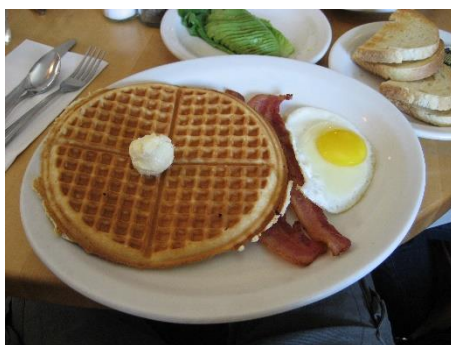


Join us every **Tuesday** at 11 am to 11:50 am where we will gather in the parking lot to hear a psalm and reflect on it briefly, and then engage in light exercise – walking the neighborhood. Please come and join us.

## Crafters & Fellowship Meetup



The Crafters gather in the Bohn Parlor on the third Thursday of the month. Even if you do not have a craft or hobby project, you are welcome to come be with friends. If you would like to learn how to knit or crochet, we can get you started. If you have a skill you would like to share with us, please do so. We come in the side door on School Lane at 1:00 pm. If you arrive after 1:10 pm, please ring the doorbell and wait a minute or two until we come down the stairs. Come join us on **October 17<sup>th</sup>!**



## 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 3, 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

Why don't you join us every Tuesday Morning for Bible Class? We are a group who gather to read and talk about Bible themes. We meet in person in the Church Office as well as online via ZOOM. You are very welcome to give it a try and, if you like what you see, please attend. **Important:** you'll need a Bible. We'll begin at 9:30am and finish a little before 11am. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81458981321?pwd=SmFRQopLS21kUmdhZHNRNnJmbnFyUTQ9>



Russell Atkinson, Pastor

## October Worship Services

### World Communion Sunday

October 6, 2024  
Genesis 2:18-24  
Mark 10:2-16  
“Darlings and Urchins”

### Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

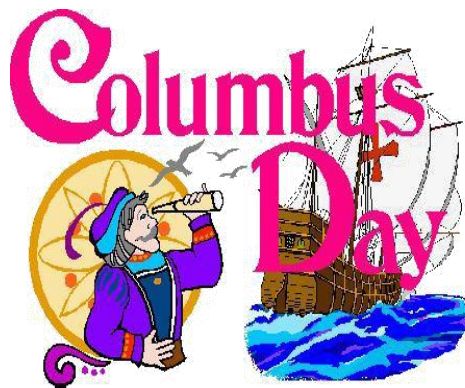
October 13, 2024  
Job 23:1-9  
Mark 10:17-31  
“Piety’s Pantry”

### Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

October 20, 2024  
Isaiah 53:4-12  
Mark 10:35-45  
“Want To Kiss the Sky”

### Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

October 27, 2024  
Jeremiah 31:7-9  
Mark 10:35-45  
“One Hundred, Then, Now... and the Future”



October 11, 2024

## Lay Reader Schedule for October

- 6 Jane Leggieri
- 13 Sally Mullin
- 20 Barbara Felton
- 27 Becky Harbison



October 31st







# October Worship Notes

## A Whole Lot of Mark 10



Jesus focuses on the issue of powerlessness. In the stories about children, the need to abandon material wealth, and in his response to the request of James and John, Jesus emphasizes that the only way to properly follow Jesus is to be receptive to powerlessness rather than seeking personal power or gain.

Wherever Jesus goes, he is surrounded by large crowds — are they there to hear him teach, to watch him perform miracles or both? The Pharisees seek ways to challenge Jesus and undermine his popularity.

Jesus commonly sits with children - Jesus has a special relationship with children because of their innocence and their willingness to trust.

Jesus and a rich young man - probably the most famous biblical passage that tends to be ignored. After hearing that it is impossible for the rich to get into heaven, Jesus' disciples are confused — and with good reason. The rich have long been patrons of religion, making great shows of their piety and supporting all sorts of religious causes. Prosperity has also traditionally been treated as a sign of God's favor. If the rich and powerful cannot get into heaven, then how can anyone else manage it?

With predictions of death and suffering that would occur at the hands of political and religious leaders in Jerusalem, curiously, no one makes much of an effort to get away — or even to convince Jesus to find another path. Instead, they all keep following as if everything will be well.

Not only are James and John rebuked for seeking their own glory, but the rest are rebuked for being jealous of this. Later, people try to stop the blind man from calling out to Jesus. The blind man himself was obviously well aware of who Jesus is and what he might be able to do. If that is the case, then why would people try to stop him? Could it have anything to do with him being in Judea — is it possible that the people here are not happy about Jesus?

# News Around Our Community

## Heartfelt Thanks for Centennial Support

*"The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory..." (John 1:14).*

The Centennial Committee wishes to express their heart-felt thanks for the generous response to the Centennial Fund Appeal. The congregation has responded wonderfully.



We have a brilliant Centennial Celebration planned! What else could we do after 100 years of offering Christ to our Drexel Hill neighborhood? We have a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet, a Centennial Worship Service on October 27<sup>th</sup>, and a lovely luncheon and program following the service.

This legacy of ministry is quite something to celebrate! There is still time to contribute. Please give a generous donation to our Centennial plans. We are rejoicing that the Word has become flesh among us, and that we have seen Christ's glory – and been blessed to play our part in God's love . . . yesterday, today, and, please God, tomorrow.

May we know God's blessing on our next century,

Russell J. Atkinson  
For the Centennial Committee

## Special Thanks to the Following Anniversary Committee Members:

Nancy Agneta  
Pastor Russell Atkinson  
Barbara Bellini  
David Bjorkgren  
Helen Campbell \*  
Cindy Carper\*  
Keith Chase  
Terry Clark  
Becky Harbison \*  
Carol Hatten  
Jim Hatten  
Portia Kamara  
Jane Leggieri  
Marion Mendimasa

Alex Mullin\*  
Mandy Mullin  
Sally Mullin  
Barbara O'Connell\*  
David O'Connell\*  
Anne Simons  
Jane Todd  
Charles Webb



\* denotes committee chairmen

# The Matsiko World Orphan Choir is Coming to Drexel Hill!

By Jane Todd



This famous children's choir from Africa that was at DHUMC two years ago is coming to stay at our church again for a few days as part of their tour of various cities in the Northeast. They will be arriving at our church on Monday, October 7th and will be staying until Thursday, October 10th. **On Tuesday evening, October 8th, 6:30 pm, the choir will give a concert at our church. PLEASE, come out to support these children, enjoy their music and bring along a friend or two!** There is no charge but a free will offering will be taken.

The Matsiko World Orphan Choir has performed at the White House, the Lincoln Center, Disney World, churches and schools. You will enjoy their music!



## Coats & Blanket Collection

As we turn the calendar to Fall, it is time to think of warm coats and snuggly blankets. It has been a long tradition of our church to collect coats and blankets for the residents of the Life Center at 63rd and Market Street every October. We are again asking for new and very gently used coats and new blankets. They will be collected and blessed at our service on Sunday, **October 20th**. Please drop off your donations on Sunday morning or on Friday mornings in the church office. Thank you for generosity in clothing the needy and helping to provide them with necessary warmth.



## Darts: Iron Sharpens Iron



Spend some time with a nice group of people in the Rainbow Room and chuck a few darts at a board. A new fellowship opportunity around darts will begin this September will meet every Monday evening at 6:30 pm.

There will be metal-shaft darts in various weights, but also traditional Philadelphia darts with their turkey feather flights. We'll play Around-the-World, 301, and Baseball. Someone might suggest another game. What could be more relaxing than throwing a sharp missile at a stationary target?

All are welcome, young and old, men and women, boys and girls. For more information, call Dave O'Connell (610)986-1174, [docnea@verizon.net](mailto:docnea@verizon.net), or Russell Atkinson, (610)675-7187, [pastor@dhum.org](mailto:pastor@dhum.org).

## Gardening News by Barb O'Connell

Autumn may be here, but the church grounds are still as dry as they were in August. If you have even ten minutes to water a few plants, it might tide us over until we get a good, soaking rain. There is no scheduled gardening day in October, but please feel free to stop over one morning, afternoon, or evening to pull a few weeds, clean up any litter, or WATER.

During the past seven months our church gardeners have enjoyed each other's company, visited with neighbors passing by, shared seeds from our flowers with interested gardeners, and had the chance to see the monthly changes in the plants around the church. Next spring we'd love to have you join us!





# Nursery School News

Photo and story by Denise McCarthy & Jennifer Ryan

Nursery School started on Tuesday, September 10 and we have had a good start. Mrs. Jennifer Ryan is teaching our four day, four year old class, and Ms. Liz Moorhead is her new aide. Mrs. Adrienne Burwell is teaching our three day, three year old class, and Ms. Mackenzie Hoban is her new aide. Both classes have nine children. We are still hoping to fill some spots.

The children are making new friends and learning the classroom routine. In September we had "Red Day" where the children wore red and brought in something red for show 'n tell. We made lots of red crafts.

In October, we will be making many Halloween crafts and listening to Halloween books and music. We are looking forward to our Halloween Parade on **October 30th**. Weather permitting, we plan to have the parade in the courtyard again this year. Happy Fall!







## Project Restoration Help Needed

Our congregation has been asked to supply 2-4 volunteers - we are finishing a small amount of glue down resilient flooring,

stucco repair, and minor interior painting at one home. At another is only drywall repairs to two ceiling cracks. Please feel free to contact me ([pastordhum.org](http://pastordhum.org), (610)675-7187) if you have any questions.

## Upper Darby Food Bank

by Charline Neigh

Food Bank Report: We continue to be busy! Many new non-English speaking people have been referred us. The best selection of fresh produce and baked goods are available about 11am Monday and all morning Tuesday. We will be closed October 14th for Columbus Day and will reopen the next day. We are still fortunate to have Giant, Wawa and Panera donate to us regularly and many donors give cash gifts and Giant cards that we use to shop for items we need. We are blessed with wonderful volunteers. If you have any questions, please call 610-853-2481.



## October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month



# Rally Day Fun

Photos by Alex Mullin

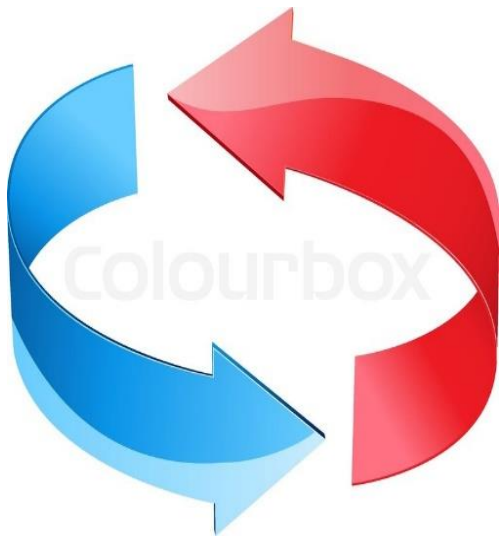






On Rally Day, the congregation was invited to use all 24 colors in the Crayola Crayon box to color pictures of our church's stain glass windows, the original 1923 chapel and crosses. Much of this lovely work can be seen posted on the wall of the Narthex. Everyone is born an artist until some miserable person tell us otherwise! It was a splendid day and we had a lovely time sitting down to a fellowship meal on the patio where one of our neighborhood friends, Eric Bandel kept the cooking fires grilling hot dogs, and hamburgers. A delightful selection of salads, side dishes and deserts were brought by the congregation.

# New Directions for DHUMC by Keith Chase



## Status Update

We've had some pauses over a very busy summer but will strive in October to have completed the follow-up of organizing the results of the huddles held for each of the five priorities. The attempt will be to make sure we are moving ahead in each of the five inter-related priority areas.

If this processing and communications are accomplished as indicated, there will be a verbal report and materials provided in a short information session following a Sunday service in October or early November.

## DHUMC Addressing Gun Violence

In the Fall, we will have an open discussion about resuming our efforts, however small those steps may be to do our part in addressing this tragic situation. In the interim, if you have any ideas or suggestions please speak with Dave O'Connell or Keith Chase.





# Learning Opportunities

## The Problem with Plastics

In October, three online Workshops on The Problem with Plastics will take place. Plastics are a problem we created and we can do something about it.

Please register for one of the three workshops. The insight and awareness this program will bring you will change how you see the plastic that permeates our lives and how you can make a difference every day to reduce its negative effects.



Pick One of the Three Tuesdays in October 2024 and join us!

- Tuesday, October 1, 2024- 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1022002997477?aff=oddtcreator>
- Tuesday, October 8, 2024 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1022046828577?aff=oddtcreator>
- Tuesday, October 15, 2024 – 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1022050098357?aff=oddtcreator>

Learn about the industry that is making single use plastics and its health risk to all- with Dr. Ned Ketyer, Founder of Physicians for Social Change will discuss the industry continuing to make single use plastic and its health risk to every living thing. Ms. Krsitin Shevis and Deborah Burns, from the Speakers Bureau of Beyond Plastic offer ways we can advocate for change in community, state and nationally. Making her third year of presentations and awareness on simple ways to reduce the use of plastic in your home, work and life, Ms. April Clisura from the Pittsburgh resistance to plastics. Strong advocates who are taking a stand against plastics in our air, land and water.

Sign up for The Plastics Reduction Challenge October 22-November 29 with April Clisura. Register separately for the “Challenge” by emailing [bdavidsmith2@gmail.com](mailto:bdavidsmith2@gmail.com) with a note saying you will commit to reducing plastic.

B. David Smith, Founder

Crossroads and Connections, Building Relationships and Community with programs on the environment, racism, gun violence and mass incarceration.

# Happy Birthdays in October!



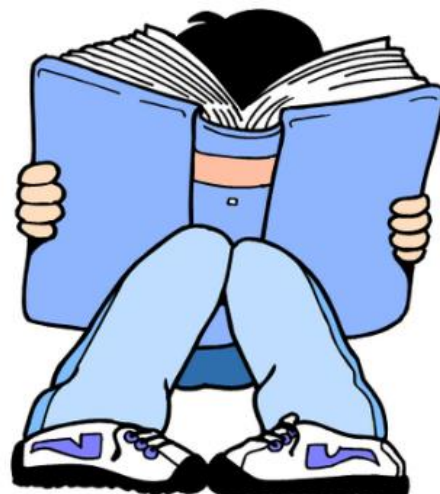
Here are a few birthdays to celebrate in the month of October! Please consider getting in touch with the following church members by regular mail or email to help them celebrate their special days. Let us know if your birthday is missing from our list by calling the church office or emailing Jane Todd at [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

**National Book Month** is held each October. The month-long celebration focuses on the importance of reading, writing and literature. National Book Month is also a time to honor the country's best books and authors.







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	sallyannemullin@gmail.com
Charles Webb	chuckster242@comcast.net
Dan Matarazzo	dmatarazzo90@gmail.com
Helen Campbell	giveemhelen@aol.com
Keith Chase &	keithmchase@gmail.com
Dave O'Connell	docnea@verizon.net
Alex Mullin	acmullinv@gmail.com
Barb O'Connell	<u>texmomoc@verizon.net</u>
Diane Volpe	office@dhum.org
Jane Todd	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 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 9am Bacon Toast	4	5
6 World Communion Sunday	7 11 Fellowship Hour 9:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Darts	8 6:30pm Matsiko World Orphan Choir	9	10	11	12
13 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost	14 11 Fellowship Hour 9:30pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Darts	15	16	17 1pm Crafter Meetup	18 Coats and Blankets Drop Off Day	19
20 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost	21 11 Fellowship Hour 9:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Darts	22	23	24	25	26
27 Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost	28 11 Fellowship Hour 9:30pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Darts	29	30	31		

