



Ministry @ DHUMC

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

May 2024

www.dhum.org

Looking Ever Higher

Pastor's Message

*Open my mouth, and let me bear,
Gladly the warm truth
everywhere;
Open my heart and let me
prepare
Love with Thy children thus to
share.*

*"Open My Eyes, That I May See,"
#454
The United Methodist Hymnal,
1989*

On May 29, 1953, Edmund Hillary and Tenzin Norgay made the first recorded ascent to the very top of Mount Everest. Following days of toil through the snow squalls and fighting for breath in the thin air, it must have then been an experience surreal and most extraordinary to be at the highest point on the planet.

I have been contemplating the idea that these two men would have made the climb with very different mindsets – one a Westerner, and the other from south Asia. How did Hillary see his ascent? The highest mountain in the world was named "Mount Everest" in 1865 after the Surveyor General of India, Sir George Everest, and for Hillary, as a New Zealander, it represented

An immense physical challenge to be conquered. That this success coincided so nicely with the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II seemed perfect. Edmund Hillary was knighted in June 1953.

In contrast, Tenzin Norgay grew up in the shadow of the same mountain knowing it by its Tibetan name Chomolungma, meaning, "Holy Mother." This suggests a different relationship: not one of conquest, but of nurturing and love, respect and mutual dependence. No wonder the Sherpas are so dismayed to see the mother of all mountains now being treated as an extreme sport; its slopes covered with the litter of wealthy climbing parties.

The Hebrew scriptures put great stress on the significance of names. In Genesis, God gives Adam the powerful gift of naming the animals. Later, in Exodus, "I Am that I Am," is the King James Bible translation of the response God used when Moses asked for his name. These are among the most famous Torah verses. We have a natural tendency to assume that the name we use is the only name –



not to mention the right name – and as soon as we mentally label something good or bad, or friend or foe, we often blind ourselves to any other possibility. The more we can step out of our mental ruts, and be open to other points of view, the more there is to learn, discover, and enjoy.

Just a few years ago, I would never have guessed the world could be as it is now. The life I have now is not what was said on "the label" when I opened it! Unexpected turns in life cause stresses. There are tensions in our lives, our families, our congregation, our communities, our nation and world. Yet, today is a new opportunity to hear something anew – perhaps try a new name. The old Prayer for Illumination might be timely for us as we read the Bible and as we experience the world:

*Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the Scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say
to us today. Amen.*

Let's pray that each of us today can find an opportunity to look at something or somebody with fresh eyes, in a way that will bring more respect and understanding into the world.

I pray there will be a blessing in seeing anew for all of us,

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



In May our crafters are back 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. 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. Please join us on **May 16th** at 1:00 pm.



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 **April 2, 2024**. Hope to see you there!

Ministry@DHUMC

A monthly newsletter for the membership of DHUMC.

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Email Diane Volpe at

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Administrative Council Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Administrative Council meeting will be held on Monday, **May 13th** beginning at 7:00 p.m. As has been our practice, we will meet on Zoom, so please be on the lookout shortly before 7 pm for Pastor Atkinson's invitation to join the meeting. If you aren't a member of the Administrative Council but would like to sit in on the meeting, just contact the church office by phone at 610-259-2104 or by email office@dhum.org and ask to have your name added to the Zoom invitation list.



Russell Atkinson, Pastor

May Worship Services

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024
Psalm 98,
John 15:9-17
"Friends"

Ascension Sunday

May 12, 2024
Psalm 47
Luke 24:44-53
"The Recency Effect"

Pentecost

May 19, 2024
Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27;
16:4b-15
"Pentecostal Dreaming"

Trinity Sunday

May 26, 2028
Isaiah 6:1-18,
John 3:1-17
"Fleeting Moments of
Eternal Time"



May 27

Lay Reader Schedule for May

- 5 Jane Leggieri
- 12 Sally Mullin
- 19 Barbara Felton
- 26 Becky Harbison



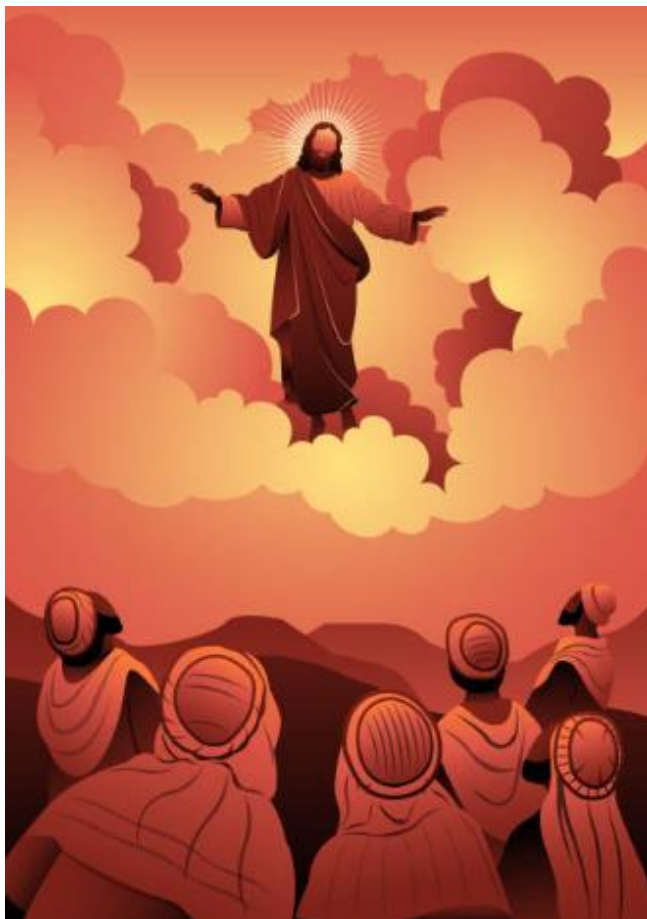
May 12, 2024





May Worship Notes

Busy May, with Ascension into the Bargain



This May seems to have nearly everything in the worship schedule! We begin with The Lord's Supper on May 5th, and then celebrate Ascension the next week on Mother's Day! The Sunday following is Pentecost – and we'll enjoy a picnic, followed by Trinity Sunday on Memorial Day weekend. These are some highly prominent occasions during May, but I'd like to make some comments regarding one, perhaps a little less well-known: Ascension.

The Ascension, celebrated 40 days after Easter, is one of the chief feasts of the Christian year. Depending on where you grew up and what congregation you belonged to, this holiday might or might not mean much. It dates back at least to the later 4th century. Any old preacher worth her salt will tell you that the vital factor in the Ascension account is not Jesus departing into heaven (dramatic though that might seem), but Jesus' assurance that he will be with us always. Sorting out how to celebrate this spiritual truth is worth mulling over at least, and may be worth some serious struggle. Forty days following any Sunday will land you on a Thursday, but in our brand of Christianity we have shifted the celebration to the nearest convenient Sunday.

We don't really need a special day to understand intellectually that Christianity teaches that Jesus ascended into heaven anymore than we need one to understand the Easter message or the meaning of the Declaration of Independence or that, given present social norms, not much work can be accomplished on January 1st. Still, the faith is not only, or primarily an intellectual exercise – faith is a way of life. What we do and when we do it will influence who we are.

Pentecost Picnic - Wear Red!

We will have our annual Pentecost Picnic on our front patio following our worship service on **May 19th**. WEAR RED! As usual, hotdogs, veggie burgers, and hamburgers will be available. Please bring a salad, side dish, or desert to share.



News Around Our Community

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.

Please be in touch with Pastor Atkinson, (610) 675-7187, pastor@dhum.org, if you would like to be included on the ZOOM invitation which is sent immediately before the meeting starts.



Gardening News by Barb O'Connell



Gardeners needed! Please join us on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 9:00 to 11:30 am. We gather on the patio at the front of the church---hope to see you there on **May 8th**! 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).



May 18, 2024



Nursery School News

Photos and story by Denise McCarthy & Jennifer Ryan

In April we made projects with the color yellow, had fun playing in the courtyard, and enjoyed a visit from the Fire Company. The firefighters dressed in full gear and told us not to be afraid of them because they are our friends. They gave each child a coloring page and crayons. Due to rain, we could not go outside to see the truck but were able to look at it from the door.

In May we will be finishing our alphabet books and reviewing all colors, shapes, letters and numbers. We are also excitedly preparing for "Muffins with Mom". This is a special day for our nursery school children and their moms. The last day for our three day, 3 years old class is on Thursday, May 16. Our four-day, 4 years old class ends on Friday, June 7.



We are looking for a competent teacher's aide. This is a part time position starting in September, 2024. If interested, email dhumns@verizon.net. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

Registration is still ongoing for the 2024-2025 school year. We are available for school tours.



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. **Please note:** We will be closed the Friday and Monday of Memorial Day weekend. 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.

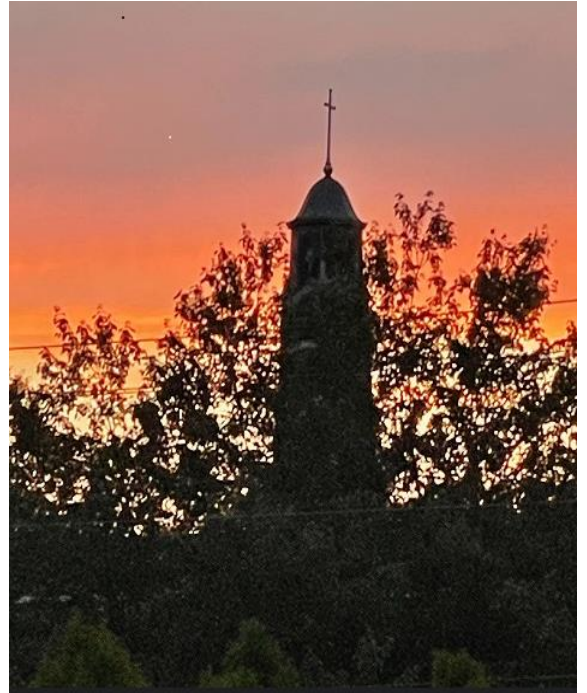


Please Share Your Pictures with Us!

by Becky Harbison

Attention all past and present church members and attendees, we need your help! We are in process of creating a visual and oral history to commemorate 100 years of Drexel Hill United Methodist Church and are interested in any photos of the church that you might wish to share. These could be pictures of weddings, confirmation classes, present or former ministers, special church services, choirs, musical programs and plays, sports teams, tailgate or white elephant sales, picnics, retreats, community outreach programs, etc. The possibilities are endless.

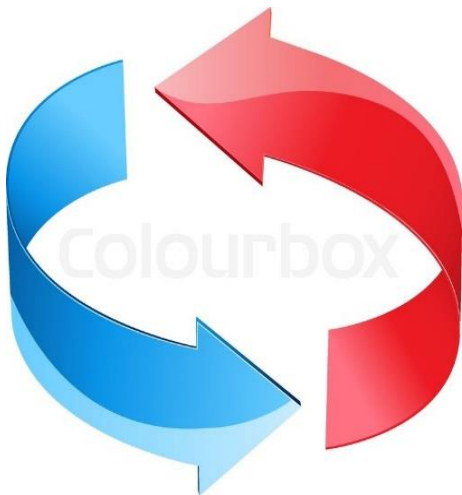
If you find pictures you'd like to share, please bring them to church and put them in the box on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Make sure they are clearly marked with your name and as much identifying information as you have including when the photo was taken, who is in it, and where it was taken. All photos will be scanned and returned to you in their original condition. If you are unable to come to the church, please contact Becky Harbison at 610-543-6913 or rrharbison@verizon.net, and we will make arrangements for someone to pick up your photos.



UPDATE: Please note that if you have digital photographs, you can send them, along with any identifying information, to DHUMC100@gmail.com.

*The current deadline for contributing pictures is **Friday, May 3rd**.*

New Directions for DHUMC



Simple Times of Prayer

On **Thursday, May 2nd** from 6-7 pm, we will have a simple time of prayer seeking the Lord's direction and provision for further shaping our strategy and preparing for implementation.

This is a chance to be united in prayer in whatever form that may be—silent, prayer walking around the building (inside and out), praying over the sign, etc. Simple, yet recognizing that future direction setting must be God-directed, illuminated, and blessed. We must have wisdom.

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.



Happy Birthdays in May!



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

5/13 -Lois Baker
1512 Summer Lane
Pottstown, PA 19465
elbaker777@gmail.com

5/31 -Dave O'Connell
509 Lawrence Drive
Springfield, PA 19131
docnea@verizon.net

5/15 -Linda Flood
2101 Belmont Ave, Apt 2005
Philadelphia, PA 19131

DHUMC Notes of Thanks

Project Restoration

Thank you for hosting the Altoona District VIM Team in April. We were blessed with having such an adequate facility to stay. May God bless your church for the outreach you are doing for your neighbors affected by this disaster.



Happy Easter



Happy Easter to you all! Thanks for the lovely cards we have received from our brothers and sisters from Drexel Hill United Methodist Church. May the Blessings be with you all!

Curtis and Gardia Daniels

Thank you so much for the lovely Easter flowers – the tulips were lovely! Thank you too for all the things you do for me. I appreciate all your thoughts and prayers and acts of kindness that keep my connection to you all! Love, Fran Roberts

Buy a Musical Instrument Day!



May 22nd

"Music is the soundtrack of your life." – Dick Clark



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.

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church Calendar

May 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|--------|----------|
| | | | 1 | 2 Bacon, Toast and Heavenly Host | 3 | 4 |
| 5 9am The Word 10am Sixth Sunday of Easter | 6 | 7 9am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Hour | 8 9am Gardeners Gather | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 9am The Word 10am Ascension Sunday | 13 7pm Admin Council Meeting | 14 9am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Hour | 15 | 16 1pm Crafters Fellowship | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9am The Word 10am Pentecost | 20 | 21 9am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Hour | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9am The Word 10am Trinity Sunday | 27 | 28 9am Bible Study 11am Fellowship Hour | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| | | | | | | |

