

Space To Move

Pastor's Message

In the 1960s science was ever-expanding its knowledge to fuel a race to the moon. Today, it seems science isn't learning big new exciting things every week. The 1960s saw the discovery and invention of many things – such as Valium, LEDs, and hand-held calculators. It strikes me that science is in a phase where it learns ever more about things it knows already. There are things we'd love to know, but we can't know them by the means of science

There may be few remaining mysteries left to science - space and the oceans deep; we know more about space each passing year and reports on the discovery of planets far beyond our solar system are made almost weekly.

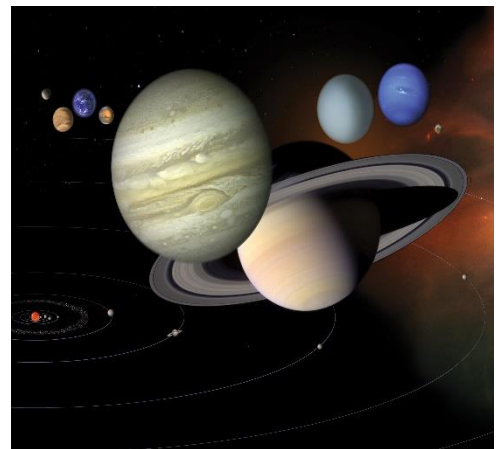
And yet the universe is so vast that humanity has barely scratched the surface. The planet Uranus was discovered in 1781 and yet it was almost 200 years later, in 1977, before astronomers finally discovered there were actually rings around that distant planet of our solar system, two of them were only discovered in the last 20 years.

When I have been in the depths of the countryside and far from city lights, I have loved sitting outside and looking at the night sky, those heavens filled with galaxies and stars, and as I gaze a line from the psalms always comes to my mind, 'The heavens proclaim the glory of God and the firmament shows forth the work of His hands'.

The Universe is an endlessly astounding place, and the fact that, so far as we know, we are still the only planet where life is certain to exist is no less astounding. More than life though, we are still, as far as we know, the only creatures who wonder about what we wonder about. And that reality has us move beyond the confines of the cosmos.

As the Winter hopefully ebbs and the new life of Spring appears may we all, Gracious and life-giving God, appreciate the wonder that is your creation and the work of your hands. Amen.

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.

Upper Darby Food Bank



Since January 6th we have been serving inside but you **MUST** wear a mask. Our hours are the same but we would like to be inside by 11:45. We have the same selection of food. The only uncooked meat we offer is chicken. Wawa still gives us sandwiches and a lot of pastry. We want to thank DHUMC for the exceptional donation we received from Super Bowl Sunday! Our hours are M, T, TH & F, 10 am-12 noon. We are located at: 7766 Wayne Avenue in Upper Darby.



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 6, 2025**. Hope to see you there!

Ministry@DHUMC

A monthly newsletter for the membership of DHUMC.

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Tuesday Morning Bible Study Class

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=SmFRQOpLS21kUmdhZHNRnJmbnFyUT09>





Russell Atkinson, Pastor

March Worship Services

Transfiguration

March 2, 2025

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 15:3-12, 4:2

Luke 9:28-43a

“God Chose a Face Like Yours”

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

Isaiah 58:1-12

Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

“To Ashes From Ashes”

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Roman’s 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

“Remember and Discover”

Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

Genesis 15:1-12

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:1-9

“Not Always What They Seem”

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2025

Isaiah 55:1-9

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

“You Have an Urgent Call”



Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

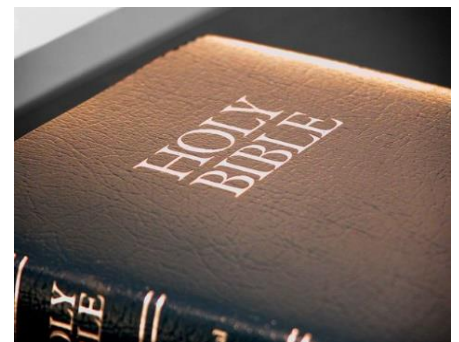
2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

“Prodigalville”

Lay Reader Schedule for March

- 2 Marion Mendimasa
- 9 Anne Simons
- 16 Malcolm Scott
- 23 Jane Leggieri
- 30 Sally Mullin



Spring Begins!
March 20th



March Worship Notes

Lenten Primer



In the beginning of March, we will launch into Lent. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday (this year March 5th) and ending on Holy Saturday (April 19th). The word “Lent” comes from the same Anglo-Saxon root as the word “lengthen,” that is: *lencten*, meaning “spring.” As we move toward spring the days lengthen – Lent.

Lent is a preparation for Easter. In the earliest Christian communities, the season was a period for converts to fast and prepare for baptism, but by mediaeval times, Lent became a time of penance for all Christians. The First Sunday’s gospel reading describes Jesus’ temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday’s reading (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ’s entry into Jerusalem and his consequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always “little Easters,” the penitential aspect of Lent should properly be replaced each Sabbath day with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

A Service of Worship for Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday, March 5th, Drexel Hill United Methodist Church will have a 7:30 pm service. Ash Wednesday is intended to be a dual encounter: we confront our own death and confess our sins before God within our faith community. The service will focus on these dual themes of sin and death in the light of God’s redeeming love in Jesus Christ.

The use of ashes as a sign of death and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the imposition of ashes can be a powerful experience of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday observances and gave the day its name. The palm branches from last year’s Palm Sunday service will provide the ashes for this service.

Events Around Our Community

UMCOR Cleaning Bucket Challenge Goes *On The Road...*

By Rev. Russell Atkinson

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church was back in the Conference newspaper because of our commitment to disaster response. Our church was the drop-off point for the South District in the UMCOR Cleaning Bucket Challenge issued by our Cabinet.

Back-to-back hurricanes led to widespread devastation in the south-eastern region of the United States and one result for our disaster response ministries in the UMC is that our stock of cleaning kits (flood buckets) has been completely spent. It was time to restock... Recovery will take years of investment. As the body of Christ here on earth, we are called to embody hope by responding when and as we can. And sometimes, the way that we embody hope is through a joyful competition. The Cabinet of EPA issued a challenge to see which district could assemble the most cleaning kits. Together our four districts were challenged to assemble and deliver 1,000 cleaning kits to Mission Central.



Here at Drexel Hill, Sally Mullin took charge of the project to receive the kits. Sally set up reception times and a cadre of volunteers to make sure the church was open. Many thanks to our generous volunteers. We collected almost 200 buckets during the challenge.



Photos by Alex Mullin



Over 200 buckets were collected for UMCOR.

Souper Bowl Sunday Fun!

Photos and story by Helen Campbell



Super Bowl Sunday! What a fun day! The Eagles won the Super Bowl! But first at Church we celebrated the Souper Bowl of Caring. It was an icy, rainy morning. Our caring congregation still brought in to church 323 pounds of food that was donated to The Upper Darby Food Bank. During the service the food was displayed and blessed. After the service we gathered in the Rainbow Room. There was an array of soups, sandwiches and desserts. Thank you everyone who donated the food and organized it and worked on it in any way. Thank you to Ed Davis and his friend, Doug who helped deliver the food to the food bank. Thank you to Charlene Neigh was has worked at the food bank for years and years; you are an inspiration to all of us!





Administrative Council Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DHUMC Administrative Council will occur on Monday, **March 10th**. The meeting, which begins at 7:00 pm, will be conducted on Zoom, so please check your email shortly before that time for Pastor Atkinson's invitation to log on. If you aren't a member of the Administrative Council but would like to sit in on this meeting, please contact the church by email at office@dhum.org or by phone at 610-259-2104 and ask to have your name added to the Zoom login list.



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 **March 20th!**



Nursery School News

Photos and News by Denise McCarthy & Jennifer Ryan

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 leprechaun's 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.

Registration is ongoing for the 2025-2026 school year. Please share with friends and family. We have availability in our three day, 3-year-olds class and in our four day, 4-year-olds class.



We celebrated the Eagles win!





In February we also celebrated Presidents' Day!

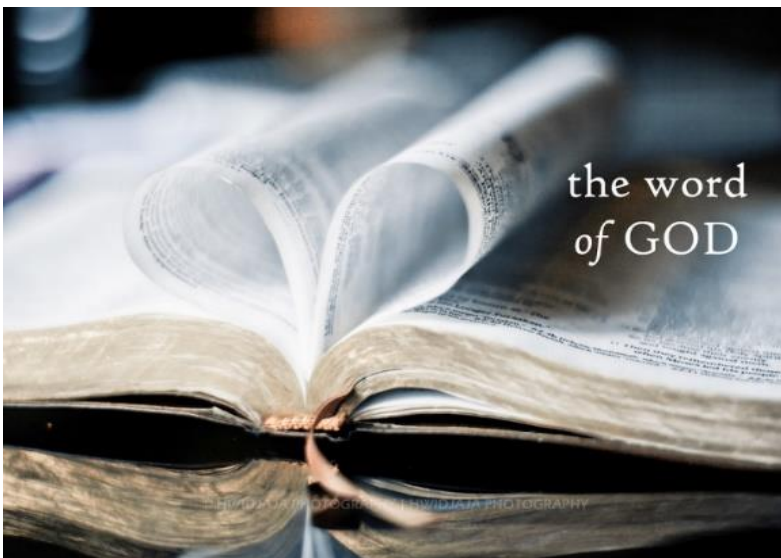
Undies for Epiphany

Last Call on March 2nd!

We are blessed to be able to take much for granted. One particular need for Philadelphia's homeless population is new underwear. During Epiphany all sizes and sorts of underwear are requested at Philadelphia's homeless shelters. All donations will be delivered to Arch Street United Methodist Church's clothing bank.

Please bring children's, women's, and men's underwear of any size to church during Epiphanytide (Epiphany, January 6th to Transfiguration, March 2nd). We'll ask God's blessing on them at our Sunday morning service on March 2nd.





DHUMC Together In The Word

We will soon be taking a pause from discussing in small pieces the classic book *The Practice of the Presence of God*. It would be a good time to stop by, join, in—as would any time. You don't need to have or read the book to gain from how it is covered. The format and fellowship time is kept simple. It's a chance to connect and to prepare for the worship hour. Every Sunday before

services at 9:15 am in the Prayer Chapel. Won't you join us?

Happy Birthdays in March!



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

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

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



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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acmullinv@gmail.com
texmomoc@verizon.net
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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.