

Empty Promise

Pastor's Message

He is not here: for he is arisen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Matt. 28:6

I opened the power drill case. It was empty. I had transported the case 1,200 miles to Biloxi, Mississippi, for nothing. Empty is not good. The fuel gauge shows empty. I'm miles from anywhere. That is not good. Is there anything so useless on a long march as continuing to carry an empty canteen? Surely, most of our associations with the word "empty" are negative. We think empty is bad and full is good.

It is curious to consider then that Easter challenges this assumption, because it is an empty cross and an empty tomb that are central to our faith. The resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ is amazing for all sorts of reasons, but one is surely that the object of our Good Friday grief is no longer there where we built a shrine! Jesus is alive today! Empty is good!

Death is the most destructive force in the world. Death, though, comes in many more degrees and conditions than we

are usually ready to acknowledge. Sometimes we carry death with us – dead in a job, but not free to find a new one; dead in our relationships, but afraid to talk about change; dead in our religious patterns but uncomfortable with the idea of beginning a process of rebirth that cannot be bounded! We are full of responsibilities, full of commitments, and full of social tangles. Still, could we be empty? Could it be that we are too full to accept what God is offering? Isn't it true that to receive we must have room?

Those who are in Christ can empty themselves and overcome death and all the other destructive forces at work in the world today. In Christ, we can have victory over self-destructive behaviors, negative attitudes, hurtful experiences, and devastating circumstances. Empty is good!

We are not powerless to address these issues in our lives! Jesus has conquered death; he is victorious. And, through Christ, we too can be conquerors and victorious. Are we struggling with anger, envy,

jealousy, feelings inferiority, pride, and arrogance? Instead of continuing the death-grip in our struggles could we simply let go? The empty cross and the empty tomb are good! Jesus "is not here; he is arisen!"

I pray you all a joyful Eastertide full of personal, family, and community examples of the victory that comes when tombs are empty. Why can this be possible? Because Jesus has conquered sin and death and been found victorious. Through Jesus we too can conquer death in the struggles of our place and time and be found victorious!

Empty is good.

Happy Easter!

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 April 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 Wednesday 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 **April 15th** 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 9, 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

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.



Russell Atkinson, Pastor

April Worship Services

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026, 7:30 pm
Exodus 12:1-14
John 13:1-17, 31b-35
“Remembering Shared”

Good Friday

April 3, 2026, 12 noon
A Service of the Seven Last Words of Christ
St. Luke’s UMC
Montgomery Avenue at Pennswood, Bryn Mawr

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026
Jeremiah 31:1-6
John 20:1-18
“The Encounter”

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31
“The Show-Me Disciple”

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026
1 Peter 1:17-23
Lue 24:13-35
“It’s a Long, Long Trail A Winding”

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026
Psalm 23
John 10:1-10
“Hearing Voices”

April 22, 2026



Lay Reader & Greeter Schedule for April

Lay Reader

- 5 Malcolm Scott
- 12 Barbara Felton
- 19 Becky Harbison
- 26 Cindy Carper

Greeter

- 5 TBA
- 12 Nancy Agneta
- 19 Carol & Jim Hatten
- 26 Carol Martsolf



Happy Easter!



April Worship Notes

Wonderful Eastertide!



Listen to the sounds of earth's resurrection as a solitary blackbird heralds the dawn calling his fellows to sing out a chorus in glad celebration of light and life reborn.

The sun has risen. Let us greet the day. Alleluia!

Listen to the sounds of Christ's Resurrection, as the earth trembles and the stone is rolled away, as women take courage to tell their good news no longer fearful of what anyone might say.

Christ has risen. The stone is rolled away. Alleluia!

Listen to the sounds of faith's resurrection, in the thud of racing heartbeats and running feet. In word tumbling over word in their eagerness to announce love's vindication and death's defeat.

Christ has risen. He has given us the victory. Alleluia!

Celebrate today the sounds of resurrection in early morning worship and breaking bread. Sing with glad thanksgiving the church's dawn chorus 'Christ is alive! He has risen from the dead.'

Christ is alive. He has risen from the dead. Alleluia!

Celebrate today the sounds of resurrection where truth is mocked and violence glorified. Shout out for joy, an Easter song of freedom in every place where love is crucified.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!



The Lord's Supper Maundy Thursday Service

Join in worship on Maundy Thursday, 7:30 pm, **April 2nd**. On Maundy Thursday night Christians celebrate the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion, when Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The gospel text for the evening, John 13:1-17, 31b – 35, only makes the briefest mention of the supper, however. Nevertheless, it is an appropriate text for the evening. The title

Maundy Thursday recalls the new commandment (Mandatum Novum in Latin) Jesus speaks in John 13:34, "Love one another".

Following the service, we will remove all the paraments and brass in preparation for Good Friday. the ancient practice of stripping the church on this night following communion is a vivid way of showing the desolation and abandonment our Lord was subject to following his arrest.

Maundy Thursday is a service full of a special immediacy not least because the Upper Room supper took place at night – and we have just this one opportunity in 2026 to partake of this communion at night.

Come, eat and drink, and remember.

April 19-25, 2026



News Around Our Community

Tuesdays TOGETHER@dhumc



Tuesdays TOGETHER@dhumc continues **April 14th**, beginning with meal preparation at 5 pm for anyone interested in helping to cook, followed by sitting down to a meal together at 6 pm. We have had some fun meals so far, and have shared tips such as adding lemon juice to almost anything is sure to make it tastier! The book study of "Your God Is Too Small" goes from 6:45 to 7:30 pm, books available for those who are interested. Please mark Tuesday on your calendar and join in for dinner, just the book discussion, or both. Use the parking lot entrance on School Lane. Your RSVP will help with planning, but know that last minute attendees will always be welcome. Hope to see you there!

Ministries Oversight Committee Meeting

There will be a Ministries Oversight Committee Meeting on Monday, **April 13th** at 7 pm in the Church Office. A Zoom link will also be made available. This involves the Trustees, the Staff Pastor Parish Relations committee and the Finance committee.



Nursery School News

Photos and story by Denise McCarthy & Jennifer Ryan



MARCH 21ST

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY!



March was a busy month! On St. Patrick's Day we followed the leprechaun's footprints in hunt of a "pot of gold", and made lots of colorful Easter crafts. We also had so much fun at our classroom "Easter Egg Hunt". On March 20th we celebrated "Rock Your Socks" (World Down Syndrome Day) by wearing two mismatched colorful socks to school. World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated world-wide on 3/21. Socks are chosen because a chromosome resembles a sock under a microscope and the 3/21 date symbolizes the 3 copies of the 21st chromosome. We

explained to the children how everyone is special and unique and to be kind a friendly to everyone.

We are continuing to work on our alphabet books that the children will be bringing home at the end of the school year. School will be closed the week of **March 29th** for Spring Break. **We return on April 7th.**



Registration is still open for our three day, 3-year-old class which meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and our four day, 4-year-old class which meets Tuesdays through Fridays. Class hours are 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. with the option of using our "lunch bunch" program on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday until 2 p.m.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!!

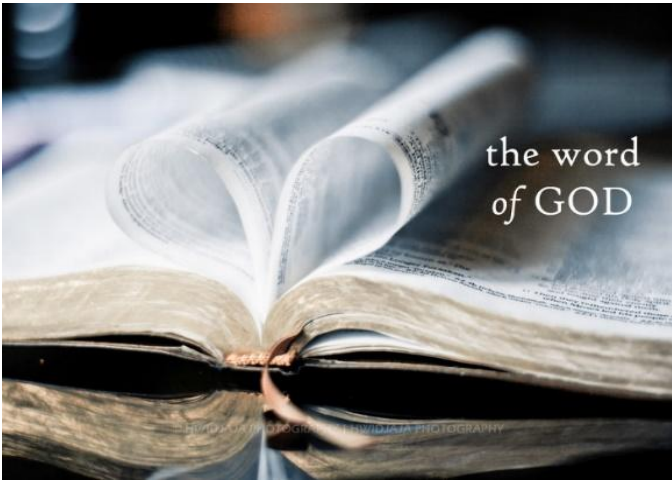


March Celebrations!

Upper Darby Food Cupboard by Charline Neigh



The Food Bank will be closed **April 3rd and 6th** for Easter. We have not been busy. Our immigrants from Upper Darby have not come back. We have an abundance of food. We have even sent food to the Life Center at 63rd and Market. Hours are still the same Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10 am to 12 pm. We take donations on all our open hours. We are located at: 7766 Wayne Avenue in Upper Darby from 10 am to 12 noon.



DHUMC Together In The Word

Please join us in April for Together in the Word, Sunday mornings before service at 9:15 am in the prayer chapel.

The results of the Together in the Word Survey showed some preference/interest for meeting in a larger room. We may try meeting once or twice in the Bohn Parlor to see if that is

preferable. Plenty of advance notice would be given before doing so. Likewise, as warmer weather arrives there may even be opportunity to meet outside on extra nice days.

Happy Birthdays in April!



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

4/12 – Christ Lenz
905 Harper Avenue
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
lenzarts2@msn.com

3/19 – Rev. Jack Ross
1915 Acorn Lane
Abington, PA 19001
jackross3101@gmail.com

4/20 – John Mahoney
268 N. Highland Avenue
Lansdowne, PA 19050
Moejo1245@verizon.net

4/28 - Judy Frysinger
217 W. Rose Valley Road
Wallingford, PA 19086
jfrysin@comcast.net