

Showing Faith in Times of Upheaval

Pastor's Message

Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles.

Luke 24:10 NRSV

In all four gospels, Mary Magdalene is either the first, or among the first, witnesses of the resurrection of the Lord. In Luke, she is among the women who followed Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem. Mary is present at his crucifixion and burial. Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it is still dark, she goes to the tomb to give Jesus the dignity of observing the decent burial customs. She is worried about the stone at the entrance of the tomb . . . but you know that familiar story. The stone is already rolled away! When she sees the empty tomb, she runs to the disciples and announces the risen Christ. They do not believe her until they see Jesus with their eyes.

I have wondered why the risen Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene first and not to the other disciples. It may be because Jesus knows that she is the one who has experienced a resurrection in her own life. Remember?

Jesus casts out seven demons from her. We don't know what they are; the Bible is silent on that score. Possibilities include her being possessed by an evil spirit, or having sinned, or having suffering from mental illness. I am of a mind that such particulars are not necessary to understand the Gospel message. All we really need to know from the Gospel is that after she was cured, she became his faithful disciple. Ancient writings in the Jesus-following community called her an apostle to apostles. From Mary's back-story, we can tell that her life was like a tomb, so-to-speak. Jesus rolled away the stone of despair from her tomb. He rolled away the stone of uncertainty, the stone of fear from the tomb of all his disciples.

We are living in changing times; significantly changing times even. The way we used to order our families, our presumptions about buying and selling, and what we expect of our neighbors have been blown-to-pieces. Through the abiding upheaval, the truth of the faith continues though – we are to love God and neighbors.

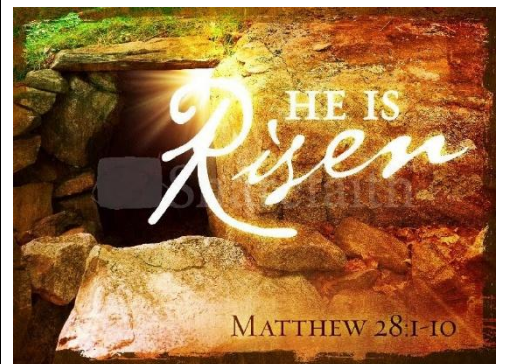
That is the same job in a bewilderingly different environment. How do we manage that?

Most of us have heard the Easter story rather a few times now, but the question remains, “Do we experience the risen Jesus in our daily lives? It is easy for our lives to be sealed off in our own tombs from the evidence of resurrection and new life. It is easy to let a stone settle with a thud over openings, keeping us from enjoying the visible evidence of God's presence around us.

Our risen Christ invites us to roll them away, live a new life, and shout from the top of your lungs, “He is alive! Christ is indeed risen! Hallelujah!”

Easter Blessings,

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



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 **April 17th!**



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 3rd**. 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=SmFRQOpLS21kUmdhZHNRRnJmbnFyUT09>



Russell Atkinson, Pastor

April Worship Services

Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 6, 2025

Isaiah 43:16

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

“Costly Perfume”

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 13, 2025

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23:56

“Choosing Liberation”

Holy Thursday

April 17, 2025

Exodus 12:1-10, 11-14

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

“Maundy”

Good Friday

April 18, 2025

Service at St. Lukes UMC,

Bryn Mawr, 12 noon



Easter

Isaiah 65:17-25

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Luke 24:1-12

“Soaring”

First Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

Isaiah 11:1-5

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

“Presence”

Lay Reader Schedule for April

- 6 Barbara Felton
- 13 Becky Harbison
- 20 Alex Mullin
- 27 Cindy Carper



April 22nd



April Worship Notes

The Lord's Supper Maundy Thursday Service



Join in worship on Maundy Thursday, 7:30pm, April 17th. 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 (*manatum 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 few opportunities to partake of this Sacramental meal at night (Ash Wednesday evening is the only other evening Lord's Supper observance presently in our congregation's life.).

Come, eat and drink, and remember.



Members of DHUMC received ashes on Ash Wednesday in March.

Photo by Alex Mullin.

News Around Our Community

Online Giving is here! by Kevin Ryan

We have finally completed the process for accepting online contributions and now have a link on our website <https://www.dhum.org/> which will redirect you to a secure site to input your information.

You can safely put your information into the form, and can make a one-time contribution or set up automatic scheduled donations. Credit card, debit card or ACH payments are available. These donations will be credited to your church tithing account just as the current envelopes are credited and will be included in your giving statement for tax purposes.



You can also text to give by texting "DHUMC" to 73256 which will send a link to the web form to enter your information.

There is no need to create a login as the contributions will be credited by your email address but it is important that the church office has the correct email address in our records. Please update your email address if you are not sure that your current one is on record.

April 11th is.....

Happy
National
Pet Day!

Adopt, don't shop!



Saving Ukrainian Soldiers by Helen Campbell

Three years ago, at the beginning of the Ukrainian war, we collected items for the Ukrainian war effort through the St Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral. During the month of April, we are collecting money to support the Ukrainian people. Again, we are going through the St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral. Donations can be sent to our church office. Donations will also be collected in a special box on the table in the rear of the church during the month of April. Make your donation payable to the Drexel Hill United Methodist Church and in memo portion write Ukraine. At the end of the project, the church will send one check to the cathedral. Thank you for your help to the people of Ukraine. The flier shows one possible use of our donation. (Please disregard the payment information on the flier.)



SAVE 100 UKRAINIAN SOLDIERS!

LENTEN PROJECT

DONATE \$85 TO PURCHASE ONE "STOP THE BLEED" KIT FOR A UKRAINIAN SOLDIER TO CARRY INTO COMBAT

DONATE ONLINE:
[HTTPS://WWW.STVLADIMIRSPHILA.ORG/DONATE](https://www.stvladimirspbila.org/donate)
SELECTING CATEGORY "SAVE A SOLDIER"
WE WOULD APPRCIATE YOU COVERING THE ONLINE FEE WHEN PAYING BY CREDIT CARD

OR DONATE BY CHECK PAYABLE TO:
ST. VLADIMIR UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
6740 N. 5TH ST. PHILA. PA 19126
PLEASE INDICATE "SAVE A SOLDIER" IN THE MEMO SECTION OF YOUR CHECK

\$85 pays for one "Stop the Bleed" Kit. Our goal is to raise funds to purchase 100 of these kits between now and Pascha (20 April). Help us achieve our goal and save the lives of Ukrainian soldiers in battle!



Nursery School News

Photos and story by Denise McCarthy & Jennifer Ryan



Welcome Spring!

March was a busy month. We started by celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday by reading some of his books and making fun crafts. On St. Patrick's Day we followed the leprechaun's footprints in hunt of a "pot of gold".

During the month of April, we will have yellow day, look for signs of Spring and make lots of colorful Easter crafts. The children always look forward to our classroom "Easter Egg Hunt". We are continuing to work on our alphabet books that the children will bring home at the end of the school year. School will be closed the week of April 14 for Spring Break.

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.



Upper Darby Food Cupboard

by Charline Neigh

We are still serving inside and all must wear masks. We are going to be closed **April 18th and 21st** for Easter. Some local Food Cupboards have had to close as they have lost their funding. WE are independent and rely on our donors, who continue to be generous, however this will add to our families already dependent on us. Hard times ahead for everyone. We will do the best we can for as long as we can. Thank you again for the recent check from Super Bowl Sunday. We appreciate your support. Our hours are M, T, TH & F, 10 am-12 noon. We are located at: 7766 Wayne Avenue in Upper Darby.



Gardening News

by Barb O'Connell



Although the thermometer sometimes makes it hard to believe, the calendar tells us that spring has arrived. And yes, if one takes the time to look around, signs of the season are evident. Just as we start to spring clean our homes, gardeners begin to spring clean the flower beds and clear the grounds of fallen tree limbs and piles of leaves that fell long after the rakes had been put away last fall. Please join us on our first gardening day of 2025 on

Thursday, April 17th at 9:00 am, if

your schedule allows. Otherwise, EVERYONE is invited to help spruce up the church grounds during the week prior to Easter. Feel free to stop by anytime to bag leaves, clean out the flower beds, pick up twigs, donate a couple of bags of mulch to spread under the trees, or pry out the weeds that spring up between the blocks of concrete. Please see Barbara O'Connell if you have questions about how you can help or if you are willing to purchase a few bags of mulch.

Underwear Delivery!

Photos and story by Alex Mullin



On March 25th, a band of intrepid church members delivered underwear and socks to the Arch Street United Methodist Church in center city. These donated, new items will be used for clothing and support for the homeless in Philadelphia. The DHUMC group then stayed an hour helping to sort and fold donated clothing which will be made available to walk in clients at Arch Street. Delivery team members were Ed Davis, Helen Campbell, Russell Atkinson, Barbara Felton, Barbara O'Connell, Alex Mullin.



Setting off for Philadelphia were delivery team members Helen Campbell, Barbara O'Connell, Russell Atkinson, Ed Davis and Alex Mullin.



Thank You Notes!



MISSION CENTRAL

Dear Friends of DHUMC:

Thank you for your recent in-kind donation of 185 Cleaning Buckets! Your support is instrumental to the work we do at Mission Central as we continue to live into our mission of “Connecting God’s Resources with Human Need.” Last year, the Mission Central warehouse assisted 8.7 million people with over \$23.5 million in resources. It was a record-breaking year, and we were able to serve so many in need thanks to your support! As need increase around the world, the work of Mission Central becomes even more important and impactful. We could not complete this work without you. Thank you for being part of our success, helping us to assist people here in Central Pennsylvania, throughout the United States and around the world.



Dear Members of Drexel Hill UMC:

My mother, Francis Roberts, want me to thank you so much for making her feel part of the church family with cards, calls, visits and flowers. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and prayers. Pam S.

Easter Plants Available

Easter Plants will be available again this year to help decorate the altar on Easter Sunday. Plants will cost \$10 each. Please fill out the attached form in your Sunday bulletin and return it to the Church office or call the office for a form. The last day to purchase flowers will be **April 13th.**



April is....



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

3/20 – 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



NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER
 MONTH



You can make a difference!



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 texmomoc@verizon.net
- 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.