

Easter in Metaphor, Easter in Fact

Pastor's Message

And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

When they looked up, they saw the stone, which was very large, rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here." Mark 16:2-6

Do you find the Easter story incredible? Surely, life after death is more digestible in its familiar other-worldly suit of harps, clouds, and halos. But in the flesh! Now that is disturbing! For a few years now, I have been amazed at the immediacy of the Easter accounts in the Gospels. The incredible is so economically reported (here in Mark, just a few phrases), and the dazzling truth is so domestically wrapped!

This makes more sense to me as the years pass – Easter is not an event only, but the pattern of our lives. Our grieving creates a longing until our believing begets our belonging. Out of painful longings we develop new beliefs, the old beliefs passing away having served their day. Here is the deep mystery: death and the many little deaths of our lives become the doorway to growth and new life. This is the paschal mystery, from *Pascha*, the Hebrew Passover, where violent political oppression in Egypt becomes the birth pangs of liberation. The paschal mystery is seen most clearly in the cross and resurrection of Jesus: violent suffering transformed into loving energy. It is the message of the Joseph story in Genesis: "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good, so that many people might be kept alive." Gen. 50:20.

If we do not fill the vacuum of our losses with positive beliefs, the vacuum becomes filled with a sort of Gospel According to Hobbs, misbeliefs (life is a struggle, and then you die). We clutch these "attachments" to fill the void, until they disillusion us. But if we will stop to listen to our grieving, our temporary desires point us to our deepest Desire. I believe that is when the stone is rolled away dear friends. Our God has done an amazing thing for us.

A blessed Easter to you,
And to those you love,
And to those they love,
And on and on until all the
world is blessed.



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 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 **April 18th** 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 4, 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

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024
Acts 4:32-35,
John 20:19-31
Rev. Hawes

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024
Acts 3:12-19
Luke 24:36b-48
“A Ghost Doesn’t”

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024
Acts 4:5-12
John 10:11-18
“The Distraction of the Crucial”

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2028
Acts 8:26-40,
John 15:1-8
“Unavoidable
Communications”



Lay Reader Schedule for April

- 7 David O’Connell
- 14 Carol Martsolf
- 21 Keith Chase
- 28 Marion Mendimasa



Happy
National
Pet Day!

Adopt, don't shop!



APRIL 11th



April Worship Notes

The Lord Is Risen, Indeed!

Easter, and the weeks soon after, contain some amazing scripture passages as we follow the

New Revised Common Lectionary! Here are some things to look out for:

On Easter itself, the passage from Isaiah, one of the very rare Hebrew scripture texts containing an explicit promise of the abolition of death. Both the 1 Corinthians reading and the speech of Peter in Acts 10 contain creedal summaries of the meaning of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; the Gospel of John, of course, gives the account of the discovery of the empty tomb.



In the Sundays following Easter, the first lessons are supplied by the Book of Acts (not the Hebrew scriptures, as is normal at other times of the year), which develops the story of the Spirit-filled followers of Jesus empowered by the Easter faith. The various readings represent a range of episodes from these early, formative days of the people living in “the Way,” yet they all have in common the deep-seated conviction that the Lord, though risen, is present among the disciples.

The second lessons during the Easter Season is taken from First John this year. For all their variety, the selected texts illustrate the bracing confidence that stems from the Easter faith.

The Gospel readings include various accounts of post-Easter appearances by the risen Lord, and from the Fourth through the Seventh Sundays the farewell discourses and prayers of Jesus from the John.

This is an extraordinary month for lessons – beginning with John’s Easter morning drama, following with Thomas and his doubting on the second week, the call to take the Gospel message to all nations in the third week, and wrapping up the month with the power of the 23rd Psalm: if being called to account requires reassurance, no psalm exudes the spirit of confident faith better than this!

New Members



On **April 21st**, the congregation of Drexel Hill United Methodist Church will welcome new members to its numbers. During the Sunday morning 10 am worship service all wishing to become members will be invited forward to take the traditional vows to uphold the church with prayers, presence, gifts, and service. Following the service, please plan to stay for refreshments, greet our new members, and introduce yourselves to the congregation as the congregation introduces itself to you!

News Around Our Community

Upper Darby Historical Society by Alex Mullin

Our congregation had a very nice presentation about Upper Darby history to go along with our centennial year. The presentation was made by Barbara Marinelli who spoke about settlement of the Upper Darby area starting in the 1600's when many people farmed and worked in mills along Darby Creek. She used historical photographs and maps to discuss the development of schools, changes in transportation, historical houses, stores and well to do landowners. This helped to give us a perspective about what lead to Broad Street Methodist Church moving from Philadelphia to Drexel Hill. Refreshments were served by Cindy Carper and Mandy Mullin. Becky Harbison oversaw this presentation and Keith Chase did the MC duties.



Margaret F. Johnson, Barbara Marinelli, Lori Clark and Bev Rorer from the UPD Historical Society.



Photos by Alex Mullin

Thankyou from the UD Historical Society

On behalf of the Upper Darby Historical Society, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your generous donation of \$200. It is through your support we are able to fulfill our mission of preserving the history of Upper Darby.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Marinelli, Treasurer
UD Historical Society*



Nursery School News

Photos and story by Denise McCarthy & Jennifer Ryan

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". We are tracking the days of the month to see if they are a lion or a lamb day and making lots of colorful Easter crafts. The children are looking forward to our classroom "Easter Egg Hunt". School was closed March 26th through April 1st for Spring Break.

David and Digger performed "The Seuss is Loose" which was held on Saturday, March 9th, in McBurney Chapel. It was a lot of fun for the children and adults as well. After the show, the children received a Dr. Seuss gift bag with lots of goodies.

During the month of April, we will have yellow day, look for signs of Spring, and on April 2nd the Fire Company will visit us to teach the children about fire safety. Hopefully we will be able to go outside and see the fire truck. We are continuing to work on our alphabet books that we will bring home at the end of the school year.

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 Tuesday through Friday. Classes meet from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. with the option of using our "lunch bunch" program (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) until 2 p.m.



Gardening News by Barb O'Connell



*Praise the Lord as we're planting God's word deep in each heart.
God has sent sunshine and the rain so the seedlings may grow.
Desert lands which seem barren, flowers still might bloom;
trusting in God's promises, our thanks to God we will show.*

*Ok In Lim; trans.
by Hae Jong Kim*

Verse 4 of the hymn "Mountains Are All Aglow" reminds us that our planting the Word in people is akin to the role of the gardener planting his seeds. Once planted, both acts require further care in order to flourish, working in the church gardens is one-way DHUMC spreads the Word to our community. Life in the flower beds indicates there is life in the church. And it also provides an opportunity to interact with our neighbors. Conversations have begun with a simple 'hello' to those passing by.

So, plan to join us on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:00 am. We gather on the patio at the front of the church---hope to see you there on **April 10th**. 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)

Upper Darby Food Cupboard by Charline Neigh

A big **Thank You** to our Congregation for a \$160 check contributed from Super Bowl Sunday. The items were placed directly on our shelves for distribution and went towards purchasing needed meat items. The past 3 weeks we signed up 23 new families, mostly non-English speaking. We are fortunate to have resources to take care of the additional families. We are closed Good Friday and Easter Monday. 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.



TRIVIA

Trivia Night is Back! By Keith Chase/ Photos by Alex Mullin

Friday Night April 19, 2024, 6pm to 8pm

We had such a good time with our first trivia event that we are going to do it again. Please join in the fun in the Rainbow Room. Optional: bring some food/snacks/soft drinks if convenient, for your dinner and/or to share. April 19th is National Garlic Day, so there will be some pizza provided with and without garlic to celebrate that significant day for our nation.

A fun time was had by all on March 15th at our first Trivia Night. Please join us in April!



March 15th Trivia Night Festivities!

Emergency Room Palms

Story by Rev. Russell Atkinson

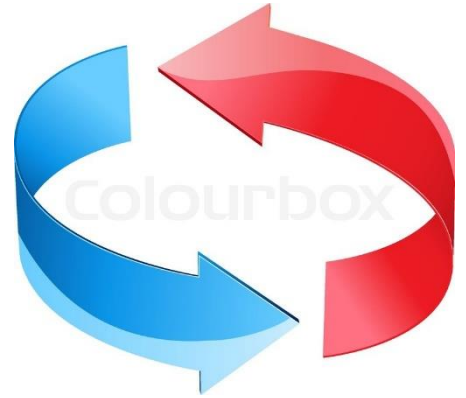


This year, our congregation here at Drexel Hill United Methodist Church provided palms for the chaplaincy and security sections who serve the ER at HUP. The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, 3400 Spruce Street, in Philadelphia, is not only a world-class institution for medical education and research, but a place of healing for the people of Philadelphia, the region, and often, the world.

The ER at HUP handles 13,000 injury and complex trauma patients annually. The staff strives for clinical excellence with a special emphasis on respect, professionalism, and patient-centered care. The Emergency Room is available to patients 24 hours a day, every day of the year, and is committed to providing world-class patient care. This Palm Sunday, the workers and patients in the ER and in the ambulance bays were recipients of palm crosses made from the fronds supplied by DHUMC; us!

New Directions for DHUMC Status Update

On Sunday, **April 9th**, a short status update will be shared during announcements. After the service, a first draft will be provided for you to take home and review at your leisure. A comment sheet will be attached if you care to use it to provide your input. “*New Directions*” will be refined in the weeks that follow taking your input very much into consideration as part of the review and refinement process.



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
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

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Nursery Closed	2 9:30am Bible Study 11am Exercise	3	4 9am Bacon Toast	5	6
WORD 7 Second Sunday of Easter	8	9 9:30am Bible Study 11am Exercise	10 9am Gardening Meetup	11 National Pet Day	12	13
WORD 14 Third Sunday of Easter	15	16 9:30am Bible Study 11am Exercise	17	18 1pm Crafters Fellowship	19 6pm Trivia Night	20
WORD 21 Fourth Sunday of Easter	22 EARTH Day	23 9:30am Bible Study 11am Exercise	24	25	26	27
WORD 28 Fifth Sunday of Easter	29	30 9:30am Bible Study 11am Exercise				

