

MINISTRY@DHUMC



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*A monthly newsletter for
the membership of Drexel
Hill United Methodist
Church.*

September 2019

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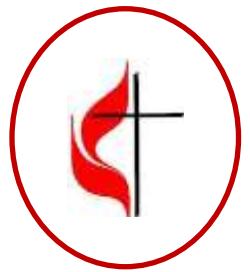
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*"There comes a time when autumn
asks, "What have you been doing all
summer?" Paraphrase of a Henry Clay quote.*

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Pastor
Russell

Can Something New Be Old? Old New?

"And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If you do, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."

Mark 2:22

"That's ancient, dude! You are so old school!"

I'm old enough now to want to go somewhere new with this familiar passage from Mark about innovation. Sometimes I get to wondering if there is anything spiritually new out there. Is there anything new under the sun?

A Cambridge lecturer once gave a talk in Beijing. He began his lecture and, after a sentence or two, stopped in order to let the translator translate. But the translator waved him on saying, "Carry on; I'll tell you when to stop." So he carried on, uninterrupted, for about 15 minutes.

The Chinese interpreter then turned to the audience and said four words in

Mandarin. Four words, and then told the lecturer, "Carry on. Carry on."

The same thing happened after another 15 minutes. He spoke again and the translator said four words.

The same thing happened after 45 minutes and, at the end, the translator gives three words in Mandarin.

As the audience left, he turned to the interpreter and said, "That was unbelievable! I gave a most complicated lecture and you compressed it into those few words. What did you say?"

The translator said, "That was easy. After 15 minutes I said, 'So far he hasn't said anything new.'

After 30 minutes I said, 'He still hasn't said anything new.' After 45 minutes I said, 'I don't think he's going to say anything new,' and after an hour I said, 'I was right.'

For obvious reasons, this story is uncomfortable for preachers. Can we say anything new about faith?

We are about to celebrate Rally Day (Sunday, Sept. 8) and launch into a whole new program year at Drexel Hill United Methodist Church.

A new year is a powerful moment. Jews will be celebrating Rosh Hashanah; new year, at sundown on Oct. 1. What little Hebrew I remember is rusty to be sure, but just last month I was reminded that לְשָׁנוֹת (Leshanot), the verb from which shanah comes, means "to repeat;" to do something a second time exactly as you did before.

But leshanot also means "to revise or to change," to do something a second time differently from the way you did it before.

Two words that are contrary in English – "repetition" and "change" – in Hebrew are represented by the same word. In other words, every time we repeat our experience, we find in it something new.

That's what I'm hoping will happen for us this **(Column continues below)**

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Can Something New Be Old? Old New?

(Column continues)

program year, beginning with our Sept. 8 Rally Day;

I hope, as we tell the old stories and repeat the

patterns of years past, we'll be filled with new inspiration and remember again the hope that God renews in us always and ever.

God of every new beginning, help us remember that what is new is old and what is old is also new. Amen.

Grace and peace . . . anew,
Russell J. Atkinson

Rally Day and Picnic

Blessing of the Book Bags!



Our 2019-20 program year begins on Sunday, Sept. 8, with the Blessing of the Book Bags.

All students, pre-school through post-doc, are invited to bring some object associated with their studies to be blessed in the chancel as we look in faith to education and ask God's blessing on our studies.

This will be a time of joy and the sharing ideas and inspiration among the congregation.

The Chancel Choir will return as will the Children's message!

And prepare, following the service, all in attendance are welcome to join in our fellowship picnic on the patio. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and veggie burgers will be provided.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.



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September Sunday services

Sunday, Sept. 1, 12th Sunday after Pentecost (Communion, Miller Musical Setting)

Jeremiah 2:4-13; Luke 14:1, 7-14

Sermon: "Friend, Move Up Higher" *Pastor Atkinson*

432 "Jesu, Jesu"

2146 "His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

529 "How Firm a Foundation"

Sunday, Sept. 8, 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-43

Sermon: "When There Is No Finish Line" *Pastor Atkinson*

436 "The Voice of God Is Calling"

352 "It's Me, It's Me, O Lord"

733 "Marching to Zion"

Sunday, Sept. 15, 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Sermon: "The Joy of Finding" *Pastor Atkinson*

479 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

480 "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

378 "Amazing Grace"

We
were made
for
WORSHIP!

Sunday, Sept. 22, 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

Sermon: "If" *Pastor Atkinson*

358 "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

375 "There is a Balm in Gilead"

438 "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord"

Sunday, Sept. 29, 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

Sermon: "What's Wrong with Dives?" *Pastor Atkinson*

108 "God Hath Spoken by the Prophets"

103 "God Will Take Care of You"

530 "Are Ye Able"

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Our Way Forward

In August, we sent out a special newsletter describing our current financial condition, the challenges of our buildings and grounds and the value of our endowments.

We are asking everyone to review the material and provide their input and suggestions as we make a decision about our future.

The congregation is being asked to consider two key questions. What is the relationship of the ministry of DHUMC to our building? What is the relationship of the ministry of DHUMC to our Endowment Fund?

Two “Congregation Group Meetings” open to everyone are taking place Sept. 22 and Oct. 6 after the church coffee social so that all may have an opportunity to offer their input and debate the facts. The hope is that we will have a plan in place by the end of December. You can also contact Administrative Council Chairman Becky Harbison at rrharbison@verizon.net or lay leader Barbara O’Connell at texmomoc@verizon.net for questions, suggestions or opinions.

To guide everyone, we are offering a summary below of the issues at hand: We will reprint and update this information in each of the newsletters until a final plan has been worked out.

Here is a summary of the main points presented in the August newsletter

1. We are spending more money than we are taking in.
2. Costs have increased that is outpacing any growth in membership.
3. So far in 2019, we are in debt \$8,457.77 and we also owe the Conference another \$34,999.26 this year as part of our obligation to them.
4. The Trustees anticipate \$30,000 in expenses to maintain the property for 2020 or thereafter.
5. In the last two years, there has been \$35,000 in unanticipated expenses relating to building repair. An additional contingency of \$15,000 is anticipated to cope with near future unanticipated building expenses.
6. Buildings, grounds and staff are the church’s largest expenses.
7. Our buildings are aging and expensive to maintain, drawing more and more of our available revenue, including endowment money.
8. Saving money by cutting costs has already been done and there is nowhere else in the budget to trim excess costs.
9. The Endowment is an asset but it is a finite asset. If we continue to draw on the Endowment Funds to pay for building and operational costs, the Funds will be gone in a few years. The Endowments also have restrictions on how the money can be used.
10. If the church closes, all assets—property, endowments, etc. will go to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Board of Trustees which will be free to use them however it wishes.

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Our Way Forward

Options: Ask the congregation to give 100 percent more than they are giving now to meet expenses.

Options: Cut staff and keep the buildings. All ministerial, clerical, teaching and program functions would be done by the congregation with an outsider brought in to give the sermons and offer Communion.

Options: Sell some of the real estate and move the congregation into the remaining buildings. Use money from the sale to upgrade the remaining buildings to continue our ministry.

Options: Renovate buildings with the intent of attracting tenants who would pay rents to use the facilities. The buildings would “pay their own way” through the rents.



The prayer chain.



Each week in our church bulletin, an insert provides the names of those for whom prayers have been requested.

When the church office is made aware of a need, or when someone we know requests prayer, prayer chain members are notified. Those on the prayer chain are contacted by phone or e-mail. As we go about our daily activities, each of us takes some time to think about and pray for those who need our prayers.

If there is someone or something you like to add to prayer requests, contact the church office at 610-259-2104, or email office@dhum.org. To be part of the prayer chain, notify the church office and provide an email address or a way to notify you when requests are made.

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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
- Helping with communion
- Ushering
- Singing in the choir
- Community lunch (project RSC)
- Prayer Chain
- Hand out lunch on the Parkway
- Addressing Gun Violence
- Community Outreach
- Helping in the Sunday school
- Maintenance of the building
- Gardening
- Media/digital/newsletter
- Prepare after-church refreshments
- Counters for the Collection Plates
- And anything else you can think of.

Contact:

Cindy Carper	crcarp@verizon.net
Sally Mullin	sallyannemullin@gmail.com
Charles Webb	chuckster242@comcast.net
Dan Matarazzo	dmatarazzo90@gmail.com
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Jane Todd	janedt@verizon.net
Diane Whitehead	whitehead.diane@gmail.com
Russell Atkinson	pastor@dhumc.org

If you don't use email but would still like to reach out to serve in an activity, just contact Pastor Atkinson at 610.259.2104 and he will get you in touch with a leader in your interest area.

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We're back! And we'd love to add your voice

Tired of just sitting in the pews watching our Sunday service go by? Get into the action and perform some fun and beautiful music. From special music at Easter and Christmas Eve, to our annual AIDS Benefit Concert, there's lots of musical joy to experience. You don't have to read music to be in the choir. Just love to sing. We practice every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. If interested, see music director Dan Matarazzo or Pastor Russell to find out more, or contact the church office at office@umc.org.

Tuesday Morning Faith Bible Study



Our congregation continues its Bible Study/Faith Formation Class. Led by Pastor Russell, the class meets on Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m., in the Pastor's Study and is open to everyone. The first study will take place Tuesday, Sept. 10.

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. Led by Pastor Russell, the devotional breakfast begins at 9 a.m. The next breakfast takes place Thursday, Sept. 5.



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Coffee and conversation



Be part of the team that's making our coffee and social time after church such a big hit. We're looking for volunteers who can offer a few minutes now and then before and after church to help set up/clean up coffee and snacks.

Will train! No experience necessary! Benefits include: First dibs at fresh coffee and doughnuts, access to coffee klatch gossip and a chance to create a friendly, welcoming place for your fellow church-goers.

You'll find a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and you can talk to Jane Todd (or email her at janedt@verizon.net) for more details.

We continue to welcome everyone to join us in the Narthex after service for a few minutes of coffee drinking, socializing and worship service critiquing.

Nursery School Begins New Season!



It's a new year for the Drexel Hill Methodist Nursery School.

- Mother's Day Out Orientation is on Monday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. There are still openings in Mother's Day Out and in the 3-day and 4-day Nursery School classes for the 2019-20 school year.
- Visitation Days are on Tuesday, Sept. 10, and Wednesday, Sept. 11. (Children are assigned a day and time to attend)
 - Nursery School Orientation is on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m.
 - Half-hour Session Day is on Wednesday, Sept. 11.

- First Full Morning is on Thursday, Sept. 12.
- First Day of Lunch is on Friday, Sept. 13.
 - This year the Nursery School is offering lunch as an option on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, beginning Friday, Sept. 13. Lunch is noon to 2 p.m. Let the school know if you would like to have lunch as an option on Tuesdays and/or if you are interested in having your child stay on this day.

For more information and/or to register your child, click [here](#), send an email to dhumns@verizon.net, or call the office at 610-259-1444. If registering, in your message give your child's name, your name, and whether your child will stay every week or occasionally on Tuesdays.

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IN THE GARDEN

The Garden and Grub group is changing its meeting days to Mondays.



While penciling in dates for the fall season, be sure to save the dates of Monday, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, and Nov. 18.

Our kick off gathering Sept. 16 will focus on planting fall mums as part of our seasonal work to rejuvenate our church garden.



Not only are we changing the day of the week to garden, but we are reversing the work/eat order.

Beginning in September we will meet for coffee and pastries at 8:45 a.m. and begin working after that. We finish by 11a.m.

If you are unable to join us in the morning but would like to help at another time, please call Barb O'Connell at 610-544-2759.



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The following thank you note was received by Jane Todd from Family and Community Service of Delco:

Dear Pastor Russell & friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful necklace and for thinking of me during graduation. I really enjoy coming to church on Sundays because everyone is so kind and friendly and asking how I've been.

I hope to visit as much as I can when I'm home from school.

Love, Alyssa Hanrahan

(Note: Alyssa graduated Upper Darby High School last spring and has begun attending Penn State University - the Brandywine campus.)

Labor Day Trivia: How Does the UMC Support Workers?

The Methodist Social Creed, predecessor to the Social Principles, originated over a century ago to express concern over the exploitation of millions of workers in factories, mines, mills, tenements and company towns during a time of rapid industrialization and growing prosperity in the United States.

Developed in 1908, the Social Creed was the first document of its kind written by a church.

Chicago pastor Harry F. Ward, while serving as pastor in the stockyards district, conducted funerals for packinghouse workers killed in frequent factory accidents. He strongly supported

the workers' drive to form a union to improve their conditions. When Ward penned the Social Creed he was writing with these families in the forefront of his mind.

The list of 11 social reforms the church should champion included an end to child labor and the sweatshop system, rights of workers, a living wage and safer workplace conditions. In 1908, the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church adopted a statement addressing these social concerns. Other Methodist-related denominations later developed similar statements.

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

It's the Swinging 60s, DHUMC version

(A continuing look at the 1960s as reported in the History of the Drexel Hill United Methodist Church)

◆ 1963

--The Civilian Defense authorities were given approval to use the church as a shelter and to stock it with food and supplies at no cost to the congregation. A stretcher was purchased to be used in case of emergencies.

--The Bohn Class, formerly the Ladies' Bible class, undertook the purchasing of a rug, draperies and furniture to renovate their meeting room. A new piano was also bought. The Bohn Room has been used for bridal parties preparing for weddings and also for group meetings.

--Openings were cut in the baffle in the choir loft to facilitate soloists making easier entrances and exits.

◆ 1964

--In September, the Christian Day Nursery opened to the children of the community with the profits going to the church. The Nursery was unique in this area because lessons from the Bible were taught.

--Racks for Bibles were installed in the pews.

--A book table was installed in the Narthex.

◆ 1965

--The sanctuary was painted during the summer. Rev. and Mrs. Buttmer were presented with a trip to the Holy Lands by the congregation.

--The Women's Society of Christian Service held their annual Exchange Sale in September with a profit of \$300. .





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IN THE COMMUNITY

Manning the sandwich patrol



On Aug. 4, the congregation was invited to make ham and cheese sandwiches and fill snack bags for the homeless population as part of Welcome Church on the Parkway down at Aviator Park across from the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.

Here are some photos of the sandwich makers and the visit down at Aviator Park.



Photos by Alex Mullin

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Congratulations from the Bishop

"Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices."

Hebrews 13:16 Common English Bible

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, has gratefully given us a certificate thanking us for our 100 percent Apportionment Giving for 2018.

Through our Connectional Giving we become part of a worldwide ministry that spans struggling neighborhoods in Chester, and chaotic areas of Harare, Zimbabwe. Education, medicine, public works, and mediation are part of our witness through Apportionment Giving.

The certificate comes from the denomination. Bishop Michael McKee is the president of the General Council on Finance and Administration.

Congratulate one another as soon as you can! Share a high-five with another disciple who is sharing God's love to the ends of the earth!



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FOOD BANK



The Holy Spirit knows the mind of God and is often called the Spirit of Truth. He understands everything and knows our emotions and where we are in our relationship with Christ. He helps guide us when called upon; he is a true teacher.

Please allow the Holy Spirit to be an example in our call to share with the Upper Darby Food Bank.

As children head back to school, please remember the families of our area in need of food assistance. Our September food bank requests for canned and boxed nonperishable foods take on a cafeteria flair!

Items needed are canned vegetables, pastas, tuna, cereal, peanut butter & jelly, pancake mix, syrup, dried beans and dried milk.

WELCOME CHURCH ON THE PARKWAY



For the past two years, on the last Sunday of the month, sandwiches and snacks have been collected by our congregation for those in Philadelphia having a tough time and delivered to them at Aviator Park across from the Franklin Institute under the auspices of the Welcome Church on the Parkway.

This monthly ministry ended for DHUMC on Aug. 25.

Starting with the next program year, Drexel Hill UMC will be taking responsibility for two Sundays a year: 2019-20 will be Nov. 8, 2019 and Aug. 4, 2020.

We'll make and distribute lunches and contribute to the services at Aviator Park on those days.

If you'd like to make difference in the lives of others, please contact Pastor Atkinson.

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(The following article comes from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference website)



Photo by Michelle Maldonado, UMCOM.

Latino caucus addresses U.S., UMC conflicts at 48th assembly

Racism, gun violence, the immigration crisis and internal clashes in The United Methodist Church were discussed at the 48th annual assembly of the Hispanic-Latino United Methodist caucus Aug. 1-4, in Philadelphia.

"We know that Hispanic-Latino ministries are going to be impacted by any of the decisions taken by the 2020 General Conference," said Bishop Elias Galvan, Executive Director of Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic-Latino Americans. "So, it is essential that the caucus take the voice of our people to General Conference." [\(READ MORE\)](#)

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AROUND THE WORLD

(The following article comes from the People of the United Methodist Church website)



Anti-extradition demonstrators march to call for democratic reforms, in Hong Kong, China, July 21, 2019. REUTERS/Tyrone Siu.

As Hong Kong protests continue, so do prayers

As protests in Hong Kong have stretched through the summer, Christians are reacting in two different ways, says a Methodist theological student.

Ben Ho, a doctoral student in Christianity and theological studies at Chinese University of Hong Kong, said churches have continued “to play an assisting role for the protesters,” such as providing spaces where protesters can rest or offering spiritual counseling to both young people and their parents. Christians also are using “soft” power to encourage the Hong Kong government to respond positively to the appeals of the people, he added. ([READ MORE](#))

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Blood drive (All day)	4 SPR Meeting 7 pm office	5 Devotion breakfast 9 am Choir 7:30 pm	6	7
8 Rally Day, Book Bag Blessing, Picnic	9 Boy Scouts 7 Ad Council 7 Nursery School	10 Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Pastor's office	11 Cub Scouts .	12 Choir 7:30 pm	13	14
15 Membership committee 11:15 a.m.	16 Boy Scouts 7 pm Garden and Grub 8:45 am	17 Bible Study 9:30	18 Cub Scouts	19 Choir 7:30 pm	20	21 Railroad Society 9 to 3
22 Congregation Group Meeting after church	23 Boy Scouts 7pm	24 Bible Study 9:30 Trustees 7 pm	25 Cub Scouts	26 Choir 7:30 pm	27	28
29	30 Boy Scouts 7pm	1 Bible Study 9:30	2 Cub Scouts	3 Choir 7:30 pm	4	5

SEPTEMBER 2019