

OCTOBER 2017

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

October 2017

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Everyone!

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Everyone!

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“I loved autumn, the one season of the year that God seemed to have put there just for the beauty of it.”

— Lee Maynard

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Salvation Through Overconsumption

Consumerism identifies a lifestyle in which a large number of individuals obtain more than is needed, more than is necessary for fulfillment, and more than the planet can sustain.

I was reminded of the Genesis creation story, in a recent scripture study, and the work God has given us to have dominion (I read stewardship) over the earth. Stewardship and consumerism have a difficult relationship.

Consumerism intensifies pollution and resource depletion leading to an immense degradation of God's earth and creation. This lifestyle is at the heart of what Christians are called to question and confront.

Instead of worshiping God, we are worshiping our own creations in a way that is destroying the rest of God's creation. It is worth questioning whether we have turned goods into rituals; that we seek our ego satisfaction and consumption. We need up, replaced and discarded at

Most of us in the US have sense of spiritual identity. Advertisers consciously seem as though our spiritual consumption. Christmas, is the major consumer resurrection, becomes a clothes and chocolates.

By placing things above consumerism deadens our consciousness and thickens our senses. Our many media devices spread with incredible efficiency the idea that we humans are the most important thing in the world. All our wants should be gratified. We should be amused at all times. That's what life is all about.

The ideology of consumerism is very much against both an ecological worldview and a religious worldview.

In the Christian worldview we're not at the center of everything. God is the center of things: God and God's creation, of which we're a small, wonderful, privileged part. John 10:10 reminds us that Jesus, not over consumption, is the way to "abundant life."

The reprogramming of our psyches is so pervasive that we do not see the effects. They are just accepted, like the air we breathe. Advertising creates a lethal addiction. Over consumption is not a matter of taste but of survival. One of the great blessings of faith is being granted the opportunity to be in the world, but not of it. We have the blessed reminder that we may enjoy the benefits of material things without allowing them to become our masters. Now that is true freedom!

"No one can serve two masters...You cannot serve God and wealth." Luke 16:13, part of the Gospel lesson of Sept. 18, 2016

our spiritual center in things consumed, burned an ever-increasing rate. trouble separating our from our cultural identity. blend the two to make it needs can be met in our Jesus' birthday celebration, holiday. Easter, Jesus' promotion vehicle for

God and human community,

In love and service,
Russell J. Atkinson



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WORSHIP NOTES

The Authorities

For the next few Sundays in October, the Gospel lessons from Matthew relate encounters of conflict between Jesus and the Jewish religious authorities—chief priests and elders of the people, Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees.

The situations described in our October Gospel lessons obviously reflect historical events, both within the ministry of Jesus and within the community that gathered to follow The Way of which the writer of Matthew was a part.

But our lives in Delaware County and in the United States are different, and

there are hazards in making the leap from ancient settings to modern ones, especially since these texts in Matthew are strongly worded. How do we understand these passages today? What claim do they make on our lives?

Pastor Atkinson will be exploring two angles on interpretation this month. First, each Gospel episode is unique and the ancient contexts of each story pretty much prohibit us from generalizing about the Jewish religious authorities.

They are pictured throughout Matthew's narrative as something of a caricature, and our modern

ears must be on guard not to carry over from the passages, directly or subtly, an anti-Jewish sentiment.

What was an intramural struggle among religious parties in the Jewish community in the biblical settings doesn't translate into today.

Second, we'll want to get hyper-focused and to isolate as discretely as possible the issue that sets the religious and political authorities over against Jesus.

Often, it is those issues that have immediate relevance to our modern concerns.

October Sunday services

1 October, World Communion Sunday

Matthew 21:23-32

Sermon: "What Do You Think?" *Pastor Atkinson*

8 October Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Matthew 21:33-46

Sermon: "A Heart Larger Than Ours" *Pastor Atkinson*

15 October Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Matthew 22:1-14

Sermon: "Voices Uncertain and Certain" *Pastor Atkinson*

22 October Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Matthew 22:15-22

Guest preacher

29 October Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost

Matthew 22:34-46

Guest preacher



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The church welcomed guest flutist and clarinetist Dr. Stephanie Esposito Olcese to its Sept. 24 worship service. She provided a beautiful musical addition to the choir's anthem, as well as to the prelude and offertory music, performing with music director Dan Matarazzo. A big thank you for her contribution.

Bible Study

Tuesday Morning Faith

Our congregation is having a Bible Study/Faith Formation Class! The first three weeks we'll study selections from Matthew, then the group will identify its preferred area for study. The class meets on Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m., in the Bohn Parlor.

9:30 - 9:45 a.m. - How goes it with your spirit?

9:45 - 10:45 a.m. - Study

10:45 - 11 a.m.- Prayer and Praise

This group is open to everyone, so please be liberal with your invitations. A vital congregation needs to ponder the scriptures.

Bacon, Toast, and the Heavenly Host!

You will eat eggs and hear about Ecclesiastes, partake of tea and the Pentateuch, bagels and Bible!

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church has a

monthly breakfast with devotional, the first Thursday of the month, 9 a.m., at Perkins Restaurant, 706 N Lansdowne Ave, Drexel Hill, PA 19026.

The next breakfast will take place Thursday, Oct. 5. Come out for breakfast, a short devotional, and fellowship.

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Ad Council kicks off Stewardship project



At left, Administrative Council members consider various aspects of stewardship. Above, Church Council Chair Becky Harbison writes down suggestions in a brain-storming exercise.

On Sept. 17, members of the Church Administrative Board met after services for a luncheon meeting to kick off the church's three-year "A Generous Community of Disciples" stewardship program.

Board members analyzed the church's finances and membership, reviewed definitions and Scripture on what it means to be a generous congregation and set up stewardship goals to be achieved over the next three years.

A Stewardship group will work with the congregation on achieving those goals, establishing a stewardship ministry to include prayer, Adult Education, sermons, studies and personal finance planning.

The congregation will be kept informed of progress made through letters,



newsletter articles, announcements, Adult education, sermons, testimonials, home visits and through the church's website.

Though congregational giving has been very generous, the ultimate goal of the three-year process is to change the way we think about stewardship and to find ways for all of us to become actively involved in the process.

On Oct. 21, the Stewardship Group and others will participate in an all-day retreat, evaluating the Stewardship program successes to date, as it sets new goals and direction for the congregation.

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

DHUMC member goes into full-time Christian service

(The following information is provided in "The History of the Drexel Hill United Methodist Church." The History chronicled the story of several church members who ended up devoting themselves full time to Christian service. This is one excerpt.)

Robert Wright graduated from Drew Theological Seminary and had the usual type of appointments, starting in the neighboring area of Springfield as the associate pastor of Covenant Church and then moving to a variety of places, including Lancaster. He was then appointed Council Director of the Conference followed by an appointment as Lancaster District Superintendent and finally was assigned to Asbury Church in Allentown, following the Rev. Dr. John C. Kulp, a former associate pastor of DHUMC.

He offered the following personal comments: "The fine example of preaching and ministry that was given to me and my family formed an early model that I continually recall with admiration and inspiration. I feel an indebtedness to Drexel Hill Church for the guidance, training and encouragement that they have given to me, and I hope that my service to the various churches of this Conference is at least some partial repayment for the debt I feel to Drexel Hill Church."



3711 Huey Avenue, Parsonage
The residence of Associate Pastors (1956-1978)



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IN THE COMMUNITY

Looking for new/gently used coats and blankets

Our Church is collecting new and gently used coats and blankets on Sunday, Oct. 15.

The coats and blankets will be given to the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County at 63rd and Market Streets.

Please bring Your donations



It was a bountiful harvest of coats and blankets during last year's October drive. Thirty nine coats and 33 blankets were delivered to the Life Center.

on Oct. 15 and leave them in the back of the church. The children will bring them up to the altar during service. We need all the children to help with this event.

The Outreach Committee thanks everyone for their generosity to make this annual drive a success.

But wait...there's more coming up from Outreach

We are also looking forward to our Thanksgiving Food Baskets in November and our "Be an Angel" Project at Christmas. We are starting to collect the shoeboxes for the Angel Project. The shoeboxes can be left in the Narthex on the shelves near the food collection bins.

And remember, you can bring a food donation for the food bank any and all Sundays.



The next RSC luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 21, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Rainbow Room (Fellowship Hall)..The Project Reach Serve Care program provides a free hot catered lunch and friendly fellowship, to anyone in the community who wishes to attend.



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Flood bucket brigade!



WORKING TOGETHER

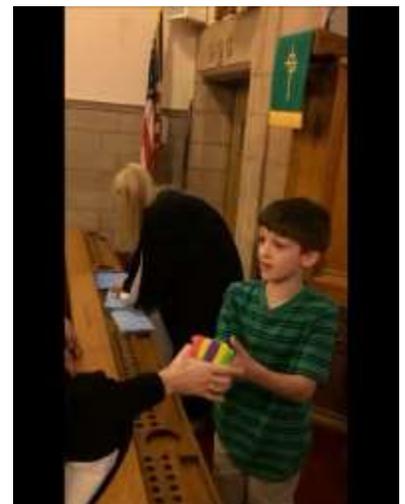


26 buckets

On Sept. 10, the congregation came together during church services to build cleaning kits for the victims of Hurricane Harvey in the Houston area. The supplies and buckets were donated.



In total, more than 26 buckets were assembled and more than \$1,000 was raised to benefit the victims of hurricanes in the Texas and Florida regions. The church demonstrated it can respond quickly and effectively when the need arises.



These images come from a video posted on the church Facebook page and website. To see the video, click [here](#), or visit www.umc.org, or www.facebook.com/drexelhillmethodists/



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...And now the buckets are on their way!



The packed buckets sit in the church office hallway waiting to be delivered.



On Sept. 27, Pastor Atkinson, Barbara and Dave O'Connell and Dave Bjorkgren packed two vehicles with the 26 buckets.



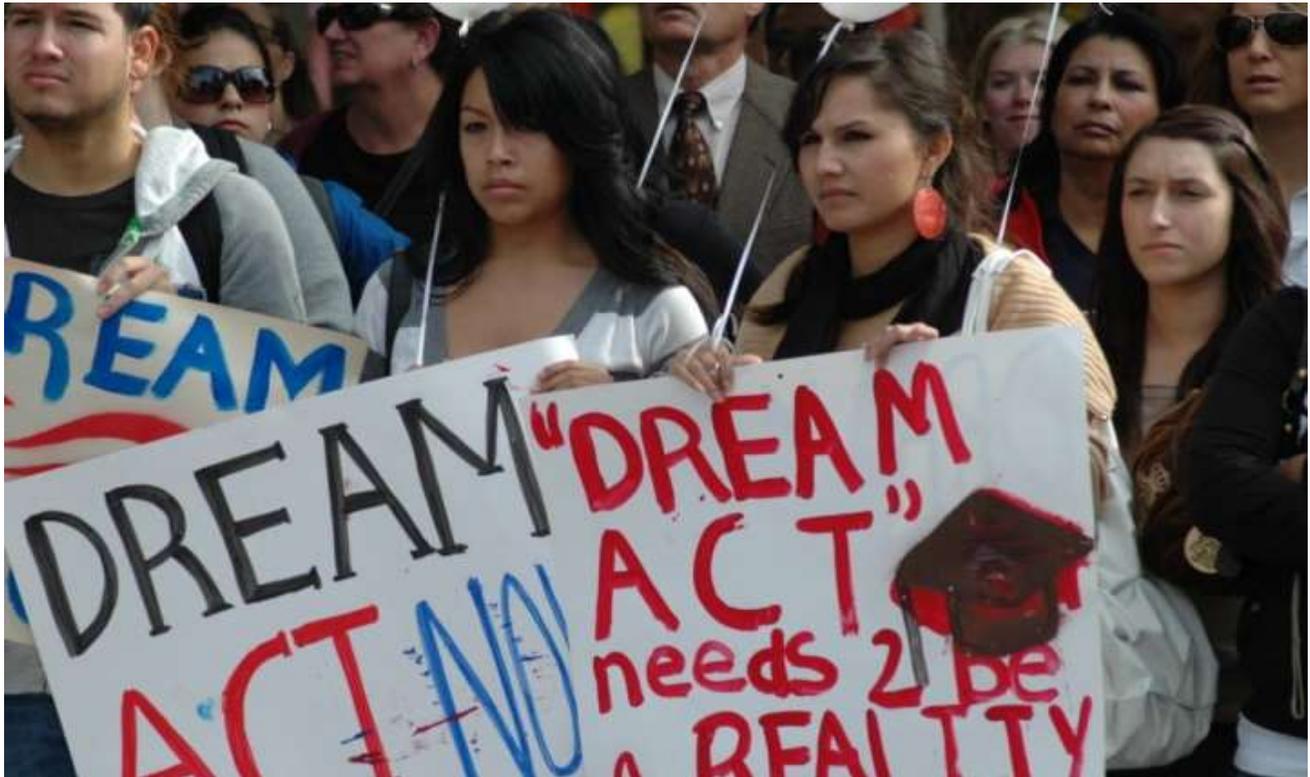
The buckets were driven to Berwyn United Methodist Church, the nearest drop-off point, where they will be picked up by UMCOR workers for distribution to Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, or anywhere the cleaning kits are needed.



A short video of the buckets' journey is posted on the church Facebook page and website. To see the video, click [here](#), or visit www.umc.org, or www.facebook.com/drexelhillmethodists/



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



Bishop, supporters advocate for DREAMers

As usual, Bishop Peggy Johnson is receiving both impassioned agreement and vehement opposition to her advocacy for justice and mercy for undocumented immigrants.

The outspoken bishop wrote to churches and members of her two annual conferences—Eastern PA and Peninsula-Delaware—last week urging broad, active support for the DREAM Act (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) in the U.S. Congress.

The bill would grant conditional, legal residency to qualifying immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children by their parents and eventually extend

permanent residency to those who qualify.

An estimated 800,000 “Dreamers” reside in the U.S., building lives, families and careers for themselves, while contributing to our society.

But many are hiding in fear of arrest and deportation.

Former President Barack Obama tried to shield some of them through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) temporary executive order, which President Donald Trump recently rescinded, effective next March.

[SEE MORE](#)

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AROUND THE WORLD

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

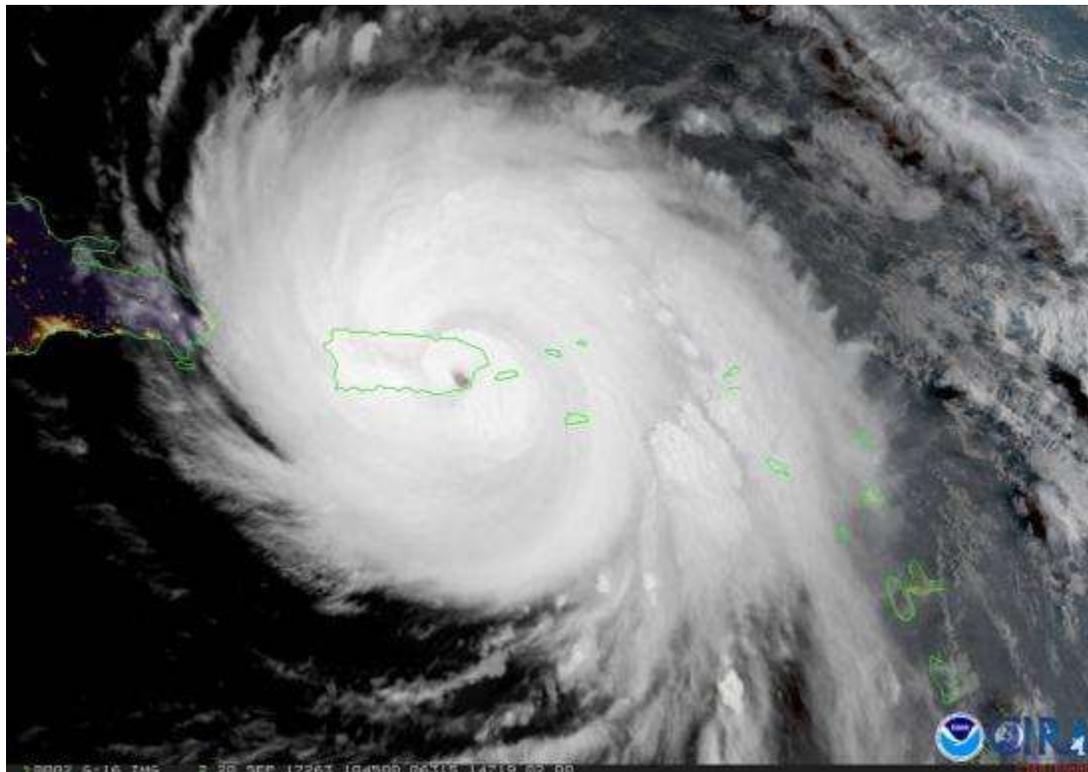


Image courtesy of NOAA/NASA/CIRA

A GOES-16 [satellite] geocolor image of Hurricane Maria over Puerto Rico as it made landfall on Sept. 20.

By Linda Bloom and Michelle Maldonado
Sept. 21, 2017 | UMNS

United Methodists were praying and standing in solidarity with Puerto Ricans while awaiting word about the effects of Hurricane Maria.

The Category 4 hurricane left Puerto Rico without power, with major building and infrastructure damage and a staggering amount of rain — about 30 inches in some areas.

“We feel with the people of Puerto Rico and in a special way with the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico,” Thomas Kemper, top executive of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, told United Methodist News Service.

In a Sept. 21 message to United Methodist Communications, Ortiz said the destruction was “immense” and communications difficult. [SEE MORE](#)

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OCTOBER 2017 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	SPRC meeting 7 p.m. Church office		Cub Scouts 7 p.m. Girl Scouts 4:30-6	Breakfast and Devotions 9 a.m. Perkins Restaurant		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Cub Scouts 7 p.m.	Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Outreach committee Coat Collection Drive Membership Committee meeting 11:15		Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	Cub Scouts 7 p.m. Girl Scouts 4:30-6			Stewardship Retreat 9:30-11:30 a.m. Railroad Society meets
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Trustees meeting 7 p.m. Church office	Cub Scout Trunk or Treat event 4-5:30 church parking lot	Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	Nursery School Halloween parade 9- noon Gym	RSC luncheon 11:30- 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Reformation Sunday, 500th anniversary Martin Luther Open Church in the Park	Nursery School Halloween parade 9- noon	Possible Girl Scout Trunk or Treat event Church parking lot	Cub Scouts 7 p.m.	Breakfast and Devotions 9 a.m. Perkins Restaurant Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary		Cub Scout/Boy Scout Open House for Parents

