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“All will concede that in order to have good neighbors, we must also be good neighbors. That applies in every field of human endeavor.”

Harry S. Truman

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

September 2018

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Photographer

Everyone!

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Everyone!

Circulation

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Email David Bjorkgren at dbjorkgren50@gmail.com no later than the third Sunday of each month to have items included in the newsletter.

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Visit often for updates on church activities.

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

In for a



"Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."
Deuteronomy 6:4-7

I had lunch with one of the children I pastored in Lancaster back in the 90s. He is quite grown up now and an investment counselor. Our conversation was most enlightening, and just a little frightening, because he told me what he does as an investment counselor -- managing resources, identifying goals and needs, and imagining trends into the future. Listening to all this was a little frightening, as I said, because, though I do not consider myself a slouch

where money is concerned, I was confronted once more with the reality that the financial issues with which I concern myself as a layperson a few times a year, are issues that employ legions of gifted, educated, full-time professionals.



Pastor
Russell

The conversation continued through high-risk and low-risk asset allocations and it struck me all at once that my life has been an investment. I spent time with this young man when he was a child talking about what is good, beautiful, and just. We may live with the delusion that all we have to invest is money, but money may be the least of our investments. The years have not diminished the sound - I continue to hear belting in my ears "Time is money!" shouted by my construction crew boss.

Perhaps, until one has run out of time and then money means nothing at all.

When we think about our lives in terms of the gifts God has given us and how we can spend those, we may be as wealthy as wealthy can be. Which begs the question: How are you investing your life?

I have been reading about dramatic shifts in attitudes among younger generations toward nearly everything from sexuality to family to work to money. The members of younger generations are not as interested, evidently, in money as the generations preceding them. Most accept as fact that they will never be as well off financially as their parents. What they want is a meaningful life.

I am convinced that our youths are more creative and adept at bringing meaning to the gift of the life God has

(COLUMN CONTINUES BELOW)

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(COLUMN CONTINUES
FROM ABOVE)

given them. Where adults may have grown up in generations of verity, or come of age in generations that saw the unveiling of corruption and the dissolution of institutions and absolutes, our youths have no memory of these structures whatever.

What attracts most of these young people to churches are opportunities for mission and service to others.

Many of them know that such opportunities are sources of joy. Joy comes from within and has to do with love. Love is our greatest resource, and the people we love are our longest term investment.

In her book *Time*, Karen H. Whiting uses Scripture quotes relating

to time and provides suggestions to help people better manage it and increase the quality of family time. One of the entries focuses on what families can do together and begins with the following quote:

“Impress them (the utterances of God) on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

Deuteronomy 6:7

These words reveal an expectation that families spend time together; time together sitting, resting, walking, going to bed and waking up. More and more studies of school children show that the greatest factor for good grades and

preventing teen problems is eating meals with one’s family at least five days every week. This is further confirmation of what seven millennia of civilization have proven to be foundational truth.

What Jesus knew to be true, he lived out, even to the Cross. Jesus invites us to love one another as he has loved us. There is no greater investment we can make in this life than the investment we make in those we love.

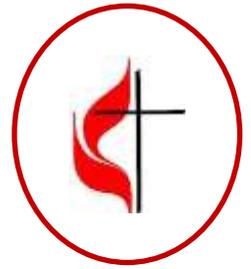
God’s love, shown in the example of Jesus Christ, is what the Church is about. Here is our investment counselor, and this love; our greatest resource.

**Happy investing,
Russell J. Atkinson**

RALLY DAY IS SEPT. 9

Catch the Spirit!

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WORSHIP NOTES

Mark Will Become Familiar

We will be working through Mark Chapters 7, 8, and 9 during September, but with the exception of Christ the King and All Saints Sundays, our lections will continue with Mark until the beginning of Advent.

The part of Mark our September Gospels come from is the large block of

Over the next weeks we'll hear familiar stories about disciples eating with unclean hands, of honoring fathers and mothers, and of the Syrophenician woman.

As we hear these stories, Mark will demonstrate that he wants Gentiles as well as Jews to understand the Gospel; he



material beginning at 4:1, which presents Jesus as extremely popular as a teacher and healer, traveling with his disciples to both sides of the Sea of Galilee and ministering to both Jews and Gentiles.

This same body of material portrays the 12 as continuing in their inability to understand Jesus, the climax coming at 8:31 with Jesus' introduction of his coming passion and his instruction of the disciples.

explains the ritual cleansing practices of Judaism - offering to Gentile Christians the background practices with which they were not familiar.

Another characteristic of Mark's structure to look out for over these next few weeks is the division of Jesus' utterances into portions addressed to different audiences.

Usually this consists of Jesus' speaking to the crowd and then explaining his words to the disciples in private. I suppose it is up to us to decide which words are for us.

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A RALLY DAY ALL CHURCH EVENT!

Who is My Neighbor? Walking the Walk

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Luke10:36-37

Come along on a walk with us! Following the worship on Sunday, Sept. 9, members and friends of Drexel Hill UMC congregation will be taking a pleasant walk through the neighborhood surrounding our church buildings.

Routes have been chosen so we can discover things about our immediate environs, walk and talk together, and eventually arrive in a shopping district

among some restaurants to enjoy lunch together.

We want to know more about the people surrounding our church! The inspiration came from hearing an interview with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, where he was asked, “What three ways can an individual act in to make a neighborhood more fully neighborly?” What follows was his seemingly off-the-cuff reply:

1. Am I capable of being trusted by my neighbors? Am I reliable? Am I a consistent friend? Is my door open?
2. What can I do to assist neighbors and a neighborhood to achieve harmoniously what they most deeply need and want?

3. How do I persuade neighbors and neighborhood to take seriously and creatively the needs of the children of the neighborhood? Given that that is where we sow the seeds for real change.

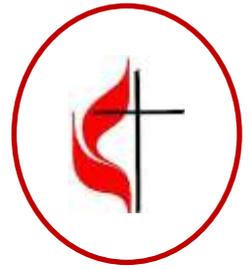
So . . . at once we have a deep purpose, but also a pleasant task and an opportunity for fellowship.

Please contact Sandy Dell’Arciprete at 610-626-0459 or sda132@aol.com to learn more.



Should you wish to participate, but know that your legs won’t last, we can arrange a push for you in the comfort of a wheel chair. If you have a wheelchair to donate to the walk, contact Barb O’Connell.

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'This Is Why I Give'

Stewardship campaign kicks in to second gear. Church members invited to write a paragraph about why they give and to describe their personal giving goals.



"A Generous Community of Disciples" is entering its second year and fall will be an exciting time in the Stewardship mission of the church.

Have you ever wondered why you pledge to the church? Is it out of habit, or because you are expected to. Does your giving reflect a deeper desire to keep a Christian focus in the community? Maybe you have a favorite church program you want to support. Perhaps you want to keep the church around for future generations. Maybe you just think the sermons are neat.

Whatever the reason, now's your chance to do a little introspection. The Stewardship Committee is asking members of the congregation to write a paragraph answering "Why I give" and "What are my personal giving goals?" Jot down your thoughts and leave them at the church office. You can also email your thoughts to office@dhum.org. We will share these responses with each other, and complete another crucial step in developing an effective "generous community of disciples."

That generous community comes from everyone who is part of the church, so the Stewardship Committee will create a prayer program for house-bound members, asking them to pray for improved stewardship from our members. The children will also learn to be generous disciples as the Sunday school develops its own giving program.

Finally, Pastor Russell will keep us focused, delivering sermons specifically related to Stewardship.

As we kick off our fall season, the Stewardship Committee extends a warm thanks to everyone for being part of our stewardship program and plans.

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Mission Opportunity

Day-long Mission Journey . . . and You

Your help is needed on Sept. 15. The heavy rains in June and July in Schuylkill County have caused major damage to at least 80 homes.

Our United Methodist Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, Robert Simcox, is working together with our St. John's Church in Tremont, which has stepped up to be leaders in the community.

Two-hundred UMC Flood buckets were moved by the Red Cross from Mission Central in Mechanicsburg. There is plenty of work. There is a need for mucking out, drying out and drywall, cement work,



landscaping, insulation, painting, carpentry, electrical, etc.

Members and friends of Drexel Hill UMC are invited on this one-day mission journey.

We'll leave from the church parking lot at 8 a.m. and be back at approximately 7 p.m.

You don't need any skills other than knowing how to use a

shovel, a mop, or a broom. If you do have skills with sheet-rock, plumbing, carpentry, or the like, we'll make sure that you can enjoy a half-day project that can take advantage of what you have to offer.



Contact Russell Atkinson or Barbara O'Connell for additional information.

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Magical Sanctuary Tours

Church visits trigger Sanctuary work ideas

In June and July, the Sanctuary Exploration Group and other members of our congregation paid a visit to four churches in our area to help our congregation imagine the possibilities for updating our own Sanctuary.

The group stopped by at St Luke's United Methodist Church in Bryn Mawr, Covenant United Methodist Church in Springfield, Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County in Media, and Reformation Lutheran Church in Media. Video of two of the tours, St. Luke's and Covenant, are available on the church's YouTube channel, [Drexel Hill United Methodist Church](#).

Participants were given color-coded index cards to indicate opinions of how other congregations have updated their Sanctuaries. Those comments included: (grouped by church)

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Positives:

- ✦ Colored tiles with carpet runners
- ✦ Moveable pews
- ✦ Angled pews
- ✦ Blue cloth
- ✦ Brightness
- ✦ Joys/concerns candles/holder concept
- ✦ Larger space between pews
- ✦ Nice use of front area for flexible use
- ✦ Projection screens

Negatives:

- Projection screens
- Too much space in chancel area



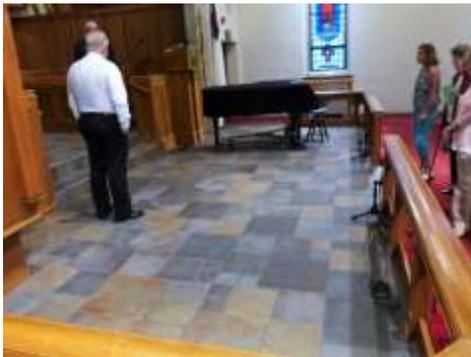
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Covenant United Methodist Church

Positives:

- ✦ Shorter pews for wheelchairs
- ✦ Tile to separate chancel
- ✦ Extra speakers for sound



Negatives:

- Pews close together like DHUMC
- Old floor



Unitarian Universalist of Delaware County

Positives:

- ✦ Wood floors
- ✦ Brightness
- ✦ Elevator
- ✦ Chair potential for space usage
- ✦ Natural and overhead lighting
- ✦ Windows overlook woods
- ✦ Comfy gathering space in narthex
- ✦ Social justice bulletin boards
- ✦ Central Air
- ✦ Security System
- ✦ Ramp for handicapped

Negatives:

- Seating not arranged well
- Chairs make it feel like an auditorium
- Chairs not sturdy, no arms
- No place for hymnals
- No stained glass
- Echo because of wood floors

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Reformation Lutheran Church in Media

Positives:

- ✦ Kitchenette in narthex
- ✦ Great chairs – connected, locking, supportive, place for hymnals
- ✦ Activity area for children (pray ground) at rear of sanctuary
- ✦ Exposed stone work behind cross is striking
- ✦ Opened up front of Sanctuary
- ✦ No barriers to chancel
- ✦ Very open
- ✦ Pulpit and altar on wheels
- ✦ Big cross on wall
- ✦ Room for praise band in chancel corner
- ✦ Openness to narthex

Negatives:

- All carpeted, spotted
- Steps to choir loft
- No handicap facility
- No projection screens
- Walls need painting

Next move

The Sanctuary Exploration Group will gather in September to consider the opinions from the tours and discuss the options to update our Sanctuary. Group members are Cindy Carper, Dave Bjorkgren, Barb O'Connell, Diane Whitehead and Alex Mullin.

There are already plans to paint and re-carpet the Sanctuary next year. The Exploratory Group is looking at other possibilities to enhance the Sanctuary's purpose to meet the church's needs over the next 30 years, both as a place of worship and for outside use. We're taking time now, before the new carpet is put down, to get input from church members about what it can imagine for our Sanctuary and what modifications could work for us.



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“Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.”
Martin Luther

Music lovers, find your home in the choir

It's September and that means a new church season of music from our chancel choir. Our group of dedicated singers, under the gentle and talented direction of music director Dan Matarazzo, will kick things off during Rally Day Sept. 9 and we all look forward to a fulfilling year of great music. The choir experience doesn't just happen every Sunday. They also have a chance to perform at special services, including Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Longest Night, Service of Healing, and Good Friday. You'll find the choir serenading unique dedications and ceremonies and, of course, they are the driving force behind our annual IDS Benefit concert. Guest instrumentalists and contributions from Jane Marchesano and Suzanne Huffnagle on violin and viola round out the musical experience throughout the year.

If you love music and enjoy singing, even if it's just in the shower, the choir has a place for you. Our group of singers practices every Thursday evening at 7:30 in the Sanctuary. First rehearsal is Thursday, Sept. 6. Music brings much beauty and inspiration in our devotion to God. Now's your chance to make new friends and bring beautiful music to our congregation. See Pastor Russell or Dan Matarazzo to find out more, or contact the church office at office@umc.org.

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September Sunday services

Sunday, Sept. 2, Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost (Communion) Musical Setting C, p.20.

PRE-SERVICE HYMN-SING [LAST]

Song of Sol. 2:8-13; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sermon: "The Work Isn't a Job" *Pastor Atkinson*

92 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

2086 "Open Our Eyes"

402 "Lord, I Want to be a Christian" (Green)

Sunday, Sept. 9, Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost (Rally Day, theme: Walk the Walk)

Prov. 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37

Sermon: "When Things Go Syrophonessian" *Pastor Atkinson*

548 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

2086 "Open Our Eyes"

592 "When the Church of Jesus" (Green)

Sunday, Sept. 16, Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Prov. 1:20-33; James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38

Sermon: "The Cost of Following" *Pastor Atkinson*

152 "I Sing the Almighty Power of God"

2129 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

415 "Take Up Thy Cross" (Green)

Sunday, Sept. 23, Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Prov. 31:10-31; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

Sermon: "The Man Nobody Knows" *Pastor Atkinson*

277 "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

Psalter UMH 738

617 "I Come with Joy"

421 "Make Me a Captive, Lord" (Green)

Sunday, Sept. 30, Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

Sermon: "Familiar Millstones" *Pastor Atkinson*

126 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

Psalter UMH 846

2001 "We Sing to You, O God"

2223 "They'll Know We Are Christians" (Green)

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Old Fashioned Potluck and Trivia

Come and join your church family and friends Friday, Oct. 19, for an old fashioned potluck dinner and trivia. Bring one of your favorite dishes (main course, salad, side dish or dessert) to share. We will gather at 6 p.m. for snacks and conversation followed by dinner at 6:30 in the Rainbow Room. Beverages and rolls will be provided.

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 study is divided into 3 parts:

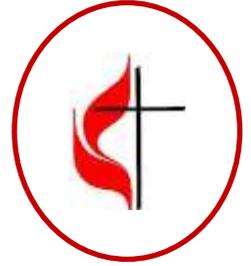
9:30 - 9:45 a.m. - How goes it with your spirit?

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

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

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, you will eat eggs and hear about Ecclesiastes, partake of tea and the Pentateuch, bagels and Bible! The devotional breakfast begins at 9 a.m. The next breakfast takes place Thursday, Sept. 6.



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Coffee and conversation



Our after-service coffee and snack gathering in the Narthex continues to be a big success, giving all of us a chance to talk with new and returning visitors to the church in the hope of encouraging new friendships and encouraging them to make the church their home.

Volunteers continue to be needed to set up coffee, hot water and provide a simple snack 15 to 20 minutes before the service. All supplies and directions for making the coffee are kept handy in a closet in the Narthex.

Someone will be available to assist if it is your first time to help out.

The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Thank you from the Membership Committee

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
 And anything else you can think of.

Contact:

Cindy Carper
 Sally Mullin
 Charles Webb
 Dan Matarazzo
 Cindy Carper
 Jane Leggieri
 Russell Atkinson
 Dave O'Connell
 Helen Campbell
 Helen Campbell
 Alex Mullin
 Barb O'Connell
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giveemhelen@aol.com
acmullinv@gmail.com
texmomoc@verizon.net
dbjorkgren50@gmail.com
janedt@verizon.net
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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Help Spread the Word!

We continue to have a presence on social media, including our Facebook page, NextDoor Drexel Hill and our new YouTube channel. As we enter a new church season, we encourage everyone to check our website, Facebook and YouTube for the latest announcements and to see updated coverage of our activities. If you're a Facebook person, please share our Facebook posts to help spread the word. If you're on NextDoor Drexel Hill, recommend the church to your friends and neighbors.

We also welcome any submissions (text, photos, videos) that could run on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel. If you're involved in a church activity or event, please feel free to share any photos, videos or releases with Dave Bjorkgren at dbjorkgren50@gmail.com. Let's not keep our light under a bushel. We've got a lot of good news and joy to spread around!

New season for Drexel Hill Methodist Nursery School

The Drexel Hill United Methodist Nursery School is ready for the fall season.

Mother's Day Out orientation is on Monday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m. Nursery School orientation is Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m.

Half hour sessions for the 2-,3-,and 4-day classes begin Wednesday, Sept. 12.

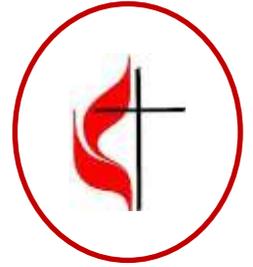
The first full day of nursery school is Thursday, Sept. 13. Lunch, available every day, begins on Thursday, Sept. 13.



To register your child for nursery school classes or Mother's Day Out classes for the 2018-19 school year, call 610-259-1444.

For more information, visit the school website www.drexelhillmethodistnurseryschool.com.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

FOOD BANK



It's Back to School

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! Please bring foods such as: peanut butter, jelly, tuna, dried beans, dried milk and pasta. Our Drexel Hill United Methodist Church food chest is kept in the narthex in the alcove near the door leading to the gym. Our Outreach Committee's food bank ministry donates the nonperishable foods for the Upper Darby Food Cupboard at 7766 Wayne Ave. in Upper Darby. It operates Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Drexel Hill United Methodist Church provides a volunteer to help distribute food each Monday throughout the year. At this time, six volunteers provide coverage on a rotational basis. If you would like to be one of the volunteers, learn more, or perhaps spend a few hours with one of us on a Monday to see if you have any interest in volunteering, notify the church office.

OPEN CHURCH ON THE PARKWAY

Once a month, on a Sunday afternoon, sandwiches and snacks are collected for those in Philadelphia having a tough time and delivered to them at Aviator Park across from the Franklin Institute. The Open Church on the Parkway visit includes a small worship service. Volunteers are welcome to join Pastor Russell for the next visit, scheduled for Sept. 30. If you'd like to make difference in the lives of others, please contact Pastor Atkinson.

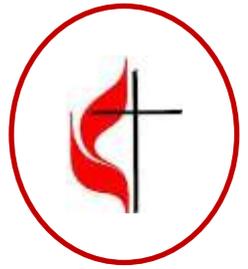


RSC LUNCHEON

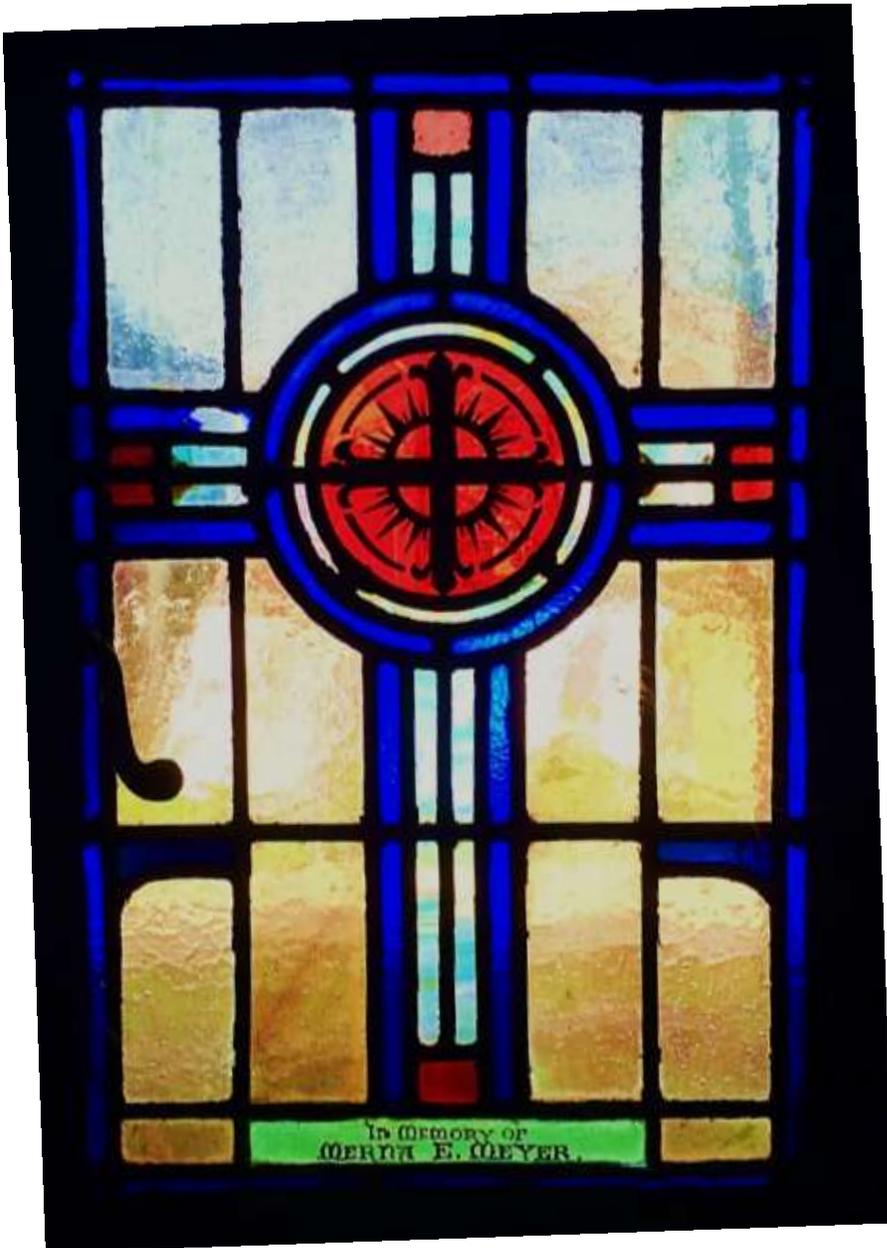


The next RSC luncheon is scheduled for the fourth Saturday of September, on Sept. 22, 2018, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Rainbow Room (Fellowship Hall). The Project Reach Serve Care program provides a free hot catered lunch and friendly fellowship, to anyone in the community who wishes to attend.

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HIDDEN TREASURES



We have a big and beautiful church and some of the best stuff is hidden from view.

As we travel the corridors of our place of worship, it's important that we pause here and there to remember the intent and creative energy of those who filled those nooks and crannies with beautiful images and art work.

In this limited series created by Alex Mullin and Dave Bjorkgren, we hope to show you some of the unique treasures often hidden from view.

Each month, we'll post a photo of something that is sometimes out of view but holds a place of beauty or interest nevertheless, then we'll invite you to email us

(dbjorkgren50@gmail.com) if you think you know what the photo is showing and where it is located. We'll print the answer in the following month's newsletter.

So, does anyone recognize what and where this is?

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



Conference, churches rally to recover from recent floods that ravaged region

Donations, volunteers needed for disaster response

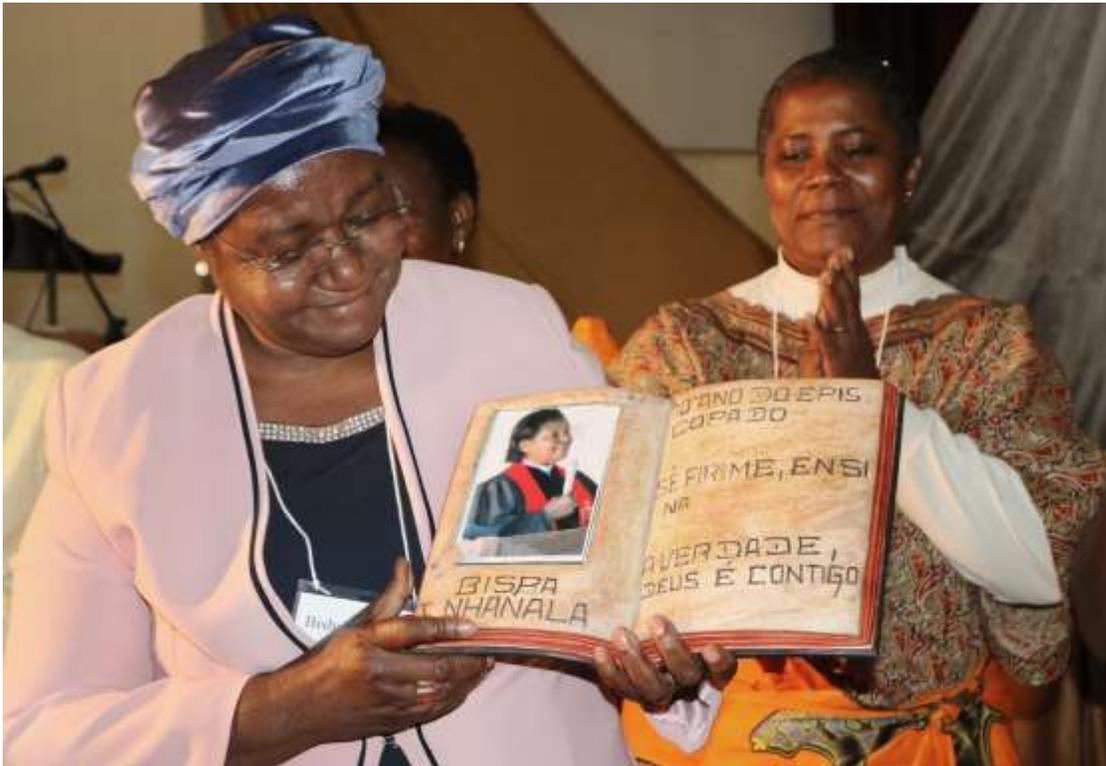
By John W. Coleman

“The Eastern PA Conference is operating in full disaster response phase,” said Disaster Response Coordinator Robert Simcox this week. “We are supporting the Schuylkill County area in flood relief.” County residents are struggling to recover physically and emotionally from a July double-drenching of relentless rain storms. But experienced, volunteer work teams and individuals are direly needed to help clear damaged, molded items out of flooded homes and perform related tasks. [SEE MORE](#)



AROUND THE WORLD

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



Nhanala: 'Africa is ready' for second female bishop

By Eveline Chikwanah

Her College of African Bishops colleagues call her “The Queen of Africa” or simply “Our Queen.” Bishop Joaquina F. Nhanala, 62, is a formidable woman.

The first and only female United Methodist bishop on the African continent has traveled a long and lonely road over the past decade and it is her prayer that “more women are elected into episcopacy in 2020.”

Nhanala sat down with United Methodist News Service before the African United Methodist Clergywomen Leadership Development Conference this summer to talk about her journey, the challenges she’s faced and her greatest achievements in her first decade as leader of the Mozambique Episcopal Area. [SEE MORE](#)



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SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3 LABOR DAY	4 Girl Scouts 4:30-6	5 Finance Committee 7 p.m. Cub Scouts 7 p.m.	6 Choir 7:30 Breakfast Devotional 9	7	8 PA RR Society 9-3
9 RALLY DAY Neighborhood Walk	10 Ad Council 7 p Mother's Day Out orient. 7	11 Bible Study 9:30-11 a.m. / Pre-school orientation 7	12 Cub Scout Parent meeting/BINGO 7 p.m.	13 Choir 7:30	14	15
16 Membership Outreach after church	17	18 Bible Study 9:30-11 a.m.	19 Cub Scout 1 st Den meeting 7 p.m.	20 Choir 7:30	21	22 RSC LUNCH 11:30a.m.-1 p.m.
23	24	25 Bible Study 9:30-11 a.m. Trustees meeting 7	26 Cub Scout Athlete Night 7 p.m.	27 Choir 7:30	28	29/30 Charge conference 9- 11 a.m. (Sat.) Open church (Sunday)