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*“February days are a marketing gimmick; **love** happens every day.”*

Randeep Hooda



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

February 2020

Editor

David Bjorkgren

Photographer

Everyone!

Contributing Writers

Everyone!

Circulation

Rasheedah Abdullah

Submissions

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

Information

Website: www.dhum.org.
Visit often for updates on church activities.

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/drexelhillmethodists

Church office:

Rasheedah Abdullah,
Administrative Assistant
610-259-2104
office@dhum.org

Pastor Russell Atkinson
pastor@dhum.org

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Pastor
Russell

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH FAITH

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has appointed me to preach good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18-19)

Attempting to discern the Spirit of God for my life has led to some fascinating destinations.

It takes a little more than five hours to fly from Philadelphia to Point Salines Airport, Grenada, but there was a world of difference there for me and the rest of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Volunteers In Mission (VIM) team.

In 2005, eighteen participants from across Eastern Pennsylvania – twice as many as any other team I have led – got off the plane and into the heat and humidity.

The theme of the trip was "Be flexible."

Because of 2005 Hurricane Ivan's destructive force, the usual difficulties getting construction supplies were aggravated all the more.

Grenada meant two weeks of close-quarters living, heavy work, good times, and serious reflection on the meaning of life and faith. Those reflections on the Spirit of God

discovered far away have stayed with me at home.

It is time for Drexel Hill to go on a journey of faith through Volunteers In Mission. There is a project a little closer to home – Wilmington, Delaware, where we could do some good, enjoy some fellowship, and contemplate life and faith.

Are you interested in discovering whether this would suit you?

The youngest participant on any of the teams I have led was 14. Here is what she had to say: "I was doing more of what we talk about in church and Sunday School. I felt myself becoming closer to God. I think we did something really important. I know more about being a disciple. I had hands-on experience with faith."

I look forward to sharing more adventures with you regarding VIM opportunities. Perhaps this year will be the year for you to have that experience through VIM.

Peace, Russell

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ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL NEWS

Transitions in Faith

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church has had a vital ministry on the corner of Burmont Road and School Lane in our community for years and intends to remain a presence here into the future.

Our past, our present, and our future goal is to be a worshiping congregation, a gathering place for the community, and a good neighbor.

On Jan. 27, 2020, our leadership voted, after long study and discernment, to consider the possibilities of reducing the amount of property we hold, in order to make our ministry remain viable and vital. This path could take a few years before changes begin.

Continuing to be a neighborhood space where the community gathers, where Scouting programs, support groups, and athletic clubs meet, and where pre-school learning occurs is central to our plans for the future.

Please contact any member of our Administrative Council if you would like to know anything about our plans or share your ideas.

Becky Harbison rrharbison@verizon.net

Barb O'Connell texmomoc@verizon.net

Dave O'Connell docnea@verizon.net

Sally Mullin sallyannemullin@gmail.com

Mandy Mullin mullin.amanda@gmail.com

Helen Campbell giveemhelen@aol.com

Jane Leggieri ferrante.leggieri@comcast.net

Jane Todd janedt@verizon.net

Jim Hatten jimhattenIII@aol.com

Carol Hatten jimhattenIII@aol.com

Jack Neigh jcneigh@verizon.net

Cindy Carper crcarp@verizon.net

Diane Whitehead whitehead.diane@gmail.com

Alex Mullin acmullinv@gmail.com

Joan Cherry jhcherry45@verizon.net

David Bjorkgren dbjorkgren50@gmail.com

Charline Neigh

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WORSHIP NOTES

Lenten Dare

There are many practical reasons to ignore Lent.

- Observing Lent takes time.
- It can be inconvenient.
- It can call attention to itself.

True though all these statements are, there are great benefits to the discipline. Our lives are awash in endless loud and urgent, but meaningless distraction. Lenten observances are a blessing of concentration on what is core to our lives.

We remember that the power of Christ continues to overcome the temptation to evil, self-centeredness, and hate. As we journey through Lent, we do well to remember the ancient meaning of the season as it is recorded for us in the traditional Lenten collect:

“O God our deliverer, you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your Church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.”

So, dear sisters and brothers, in pastoral love, I double-dog-dare you to make a Lenten Covenant. Whatever we do as a Lenten Discipline is meant to help us spiritually to become more truly the person God would have us be.

Covenant disciplines are stronger when we ask others to hold us accountable. Share your covenant commitment with a someone. This Lent, consider a covenant to strengthen your spiritual journey by observing one (or more) of the following disciplines:

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Prayer

- Pray every day for each person you know who has: married this year, lost a loved one this year, stopped coming to church, gone on a mission trip, been baptized this last year
- Read a daily devotional book.

Fasting – the money or time saved can be given to good works

- Stop eating meat on Fridays.
- Stop saying sarcastic things .
- Don't go to restaurants.
- Stop watching television.
- Limit your on-line hours .
- Only eat at mealtimes.

Almsgiving

- Make 10% (a tithe) of your grocery bill an offering to Puerto Rico relief.
- Give 5% of the value of your car to our music budget.
- Give 10% of your gasoline bill to Drexel Hill UMC's upcoming Volunteers in Mission project.

Study during Lent

- Read Matthew's Gospel (28 chapters)
- Re-read the Sunday lections on Wednesdays
- Read David Zahl's new book *Seculosity: How Career, Parenting, Technology, Food, Politics, and Romance Became Our New Religion and What to Do about It.*

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A Service of Worship for Ash Wednesday



On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, Drexel Hill United Methodist Church will have a 7:30 p.m. service in community with Mary Magdalene, Grace Lutheran, and our sister UMCs – The Garden Church and New Life.

Ash Wednesday is intended to be a dual encounter: we confront our own death and confess our sin before God within our faith community. The service will focus on these dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ.

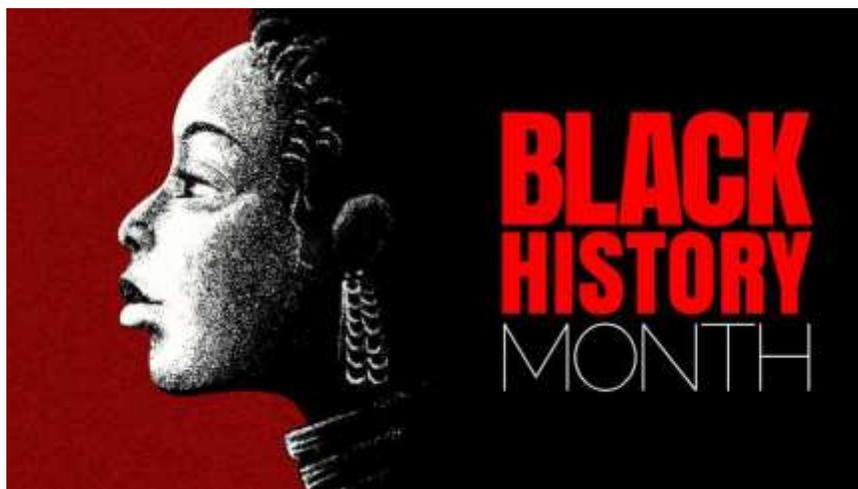
The use of ashes as a sign of death and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the imposition of ashes can be a powerful experience of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday observances and gave the day its name. The palm branches from last year's Palm Sunday service will provide the ashes for this service.

How much do you know about Methodists and Black History Month?

Too often, the accomplishments of African Americans have not received adequate notice in U.S. history books and classrooms.

That is why historian Carter Woodson first proposed a weeklong focus on black history in 1926. The first U.S. celebration of Black History Month happened decades later.

Click [here](#) to take a short quiz African American history in the U.S. and in The United Methodist Church.



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February Sunday services

Sunday, Feb. 2, Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany Communion

Micah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: "Beatitude Attitude" *Pastor Atkinson*

451 "Be Thou My Vision"

348 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

2234 Lead On, O Cloud of Presence

Sunday, Feb. 9 Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon: "A Dance Invite" *Pastor Atkinson*

261 "Lord of the Dance"

632 "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

163 "Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know"

Sunday, Feb. 16, Scout Sunday

Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon: "B+/A- Discipleship" *Pastor Atkinson*

"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

"My Country, Tis of Thee"

**We
were made
for
WORSHIP!**

Sunday, Feb. 23, Transfiguration

Exodus 24:12-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon: "The Legend/The Man" *Pastor Atkinson*

116 "The God of Abraham Praise"

121 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

139 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

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Caring Ministries/Prayer Chain

By Jane Leggieri

The devotional published in The Upper Room on Jan. 15 recounts the author's conversation with a friend as they talked about finding time for prayer.

The author shared with his friend that after reading Jesus' instruction to watch and pray, he decided that every time he looked at his watch to see what time it was, he would say a prayer.

It made me think. So - what if - every time I looked at my cell phone to check on a text or checked my e-mail I said a prayer?

Quite a few years ago our Fran Roberts began a prayer chain. When she learned of a member or friend in need of prayer she would call those who were members of the prayer chain and inform them of the need for prayer.

Today, when we learn of a member, friend or situation of concern, those who participate in the prayer chain are informed of the need for prayer by e-mail.



As we go through our daily activities our prayers go with the person or concern.

The year of 2020 is presenting many opportunities for prayer. In addition to the needs of our members, friends and acquaintances, Drexel Hill United Methodist Church is standing in the need of prayer as we look forward to our future.

The United Methodist Church of America faces many challenges and is standing in the need of prayer.

Our country participates in a nationwide census and a presidential election this year and stands in the need of prayer.

If you would like to be included as someone who receives e-mails notifying you of the congregation's prayer concerns, notify the church office or e-mail me at ferrante.leggieri@comcast.net.

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Coffee and conversation



Be part of the team that's making our coffee and social time after church so successful. We're always 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.

Benefits include: First dibs at fresh coffee and doughnuts 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.

Everyone is welcome in the Narthex after service for coffee, tea or other beverage, a snack and some socializing.

Get Involved!

Are you looking for a way to serve through our congregation? Here are easy ways to get involved and here's the person to contact!

Activity:

Delivering altar flowers
 Helping with communion
 Ushering
 Singing in the choir
 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
 Sally Mullin
 Charles Webb
 Dan Matarazzo
 Jane Leggieri
 Russell Atkinson
 Dave O'Connell
 Helen Campbell
 Helen Campbell
 Alex Mullin
 Barb O'Connell
 David Bjorkgren
 Jane Todd
 Diane Whitehead
 Russell Atkinson

crcarp@verizon.net
sallyannemullin@gmail.com
chuckster242@comcast.net
dmatarazzo90@gmail.com
ferrante.leggieri@comcast.net
pastor@dhum.org
docnea@verizon.net
giveemhelen@aol.com
giveemhelen@aol.com
acmullinv@gmail.com
texmomoc@verizon.net
dbjorkgren50@gmail.com
janedt@verizon.net
whitehead.diane@gmail.com
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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Music lovers, find a home in the choir

As we approach another season of Lent, music continues to bring an added dimension to our weekly worship.

If you agree and would like to contribute a love of music to the church, our choir, under direction of music director Dan Matarazzo, is always happy to welcome new members. Our group of singers practice every Thursday evening at 7:30 in the Sanctuary. See Pastor Russell or Dan Matarazzo to find out more, or contact the church office at office@umc.org.



SMILE! You're in Our Church Directory

The church membership committee is in the process of putting together a new directory that will feature our members, staff and returning visitors.

YOUR
PHOTO
HERE

This new, updated and compact directory will be offered in print and online, which can be updated as our members and regular attendees change over time.

Photo sessions have taken place in November and December. Congregants should have received a free 8X10 print, with the option to purchase additional photos, and will be given a free directory, once it is assembled.

Reach out to Jane Todd for questions or for more information.



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IN THE COMMUNITY



FOOD BANK

February Valentines

We have received gifts, cards and loving words from family friends, but nothing can compare to Jesus' love his offerings and his gifts to use. Let us think of our community and the gifts our congregation can give. Please support the Upper Darby Food Bank with non-perishable food donations, which can be dropped off in the

Narthex.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING NETS 257 POUNDS OF FOOD

This year's Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday Feb. 2 gave us a chance to enjoy soup, sandwiches and each other's company while collecting 257 pounds of food and \$47 in donations and soup sales for the Upper Darby Food Bank.

The food was brought over to the Food Bank on Friday, Feb. 7.



FILE PHOTO SOUPER BOWL OF CARING.

It will be distributed to those in need of food in our community.

The money collected will be used by the Food Bank to purchase additional needed items.

Thank you to everyone for making a positive difference in the lives of those who may be struggling economically in our neighborhoods.

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

Kicking off the 1970s

(From "A History of the Drexel Hill United Methodist Church")

Here's what was happening in 1970 at our church:

1. Scout Sunday was observed on Feb. 15 with Robert Burns receiving the God and Country Award.
2. In April, an announcement was made regarding the establishment of the Church's Endowment Fund which would take the place of individual memorials. This fund would enable the church membership to give contributions in lieu of flowers in memory of those who had died.
3. A new Conference ruling made it mandatory for ministers to own their own furniture.
4. The "Coffee House" folded and later Larry Hof, the church's new associate pastor, made a second attempt to reorganize it. These were Ecumenical movements and high school students from the entire area attended the affairs.
5. The church music director, Ed Wetherill, participated in the annual American Church Music Festival in Genoa, Italy. Three American composers were invited to participate and present their own works.
6. After renovations to the parsonage were made, an open house was held on Dec. 6.
7. The Coronation Choir (grades 3-60) was reactivated under Mr. Wetherill on Oct. 1.
8. The Women's Society of Christian Service held its 18th Annual Antiques Show and Sale on Oct. 6 and 7.
9. A church-wide School of Missions was held Jan. 17 through Feb. 14.
10. Twenty-seven weeks of instruction in math were given to 28 students of Drexel Hill Junior High School by seven church members. The program continued for three years.

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



Trailblazers

By Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

As we celebrate Black History Month it should be noted that trailblazers were a significant part of the Civil Rights movement in this country.

Had there not been courageous people who took a stand and moved forward in the face of discrimination and hostility, we as a nation would never have made any progress. It is true of every social justice movement in all of history. Such was the case of a 14-year-old girl named **Carlotta Walls**. Read more about Trailblazers [here](#).

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AROUND THE WORLD

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

Foretaste of what's on the table at GC2020

By Heather Hahn



Kim Simpson, chairman, Commission on General Conference, and Janice Griffith, Illinois Great Rivers, join hands in prayer during opening worship at the 2020 United Methodist Pre-General Conference held in Nashville, Tenn. Photo by Kathleen Barry, UM News.

What form The United Methodist Church takes next will remain unclear until the 2020 General Conference meets this spring.

In a gathering that emphasized the denomination's uncertain future, United Methodists received a preview of some of the possibilities that will be before 862 delegates when they meet May 5-15 in Minneapolis. Read more about the Conference [here](#).



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 Souper Bowl of Caring	3 Boy Scouts	4 Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Pastor's office	5 Cub Scouts	6 Perkins breakfast 9 Choir 7:30 pm	7	8
9	10 Boy Scouts 7 pm	11 Bible Study 9:30	12 Cub Scouts	13 Choir 7:30 pm	14 No nursery school	15 Railroad Society 9 to 3
16 Scout Sunday	17 Boy Scouts 7pm	18 Bible Study 9:30	19 Cub Scouts	20 Choir 7:30 pm	21	22
23	24 Boy Scouts 7pm	25 Bible Study 9:30 Trustees meet Shrove Tuesday	26 ASH WEDNESDAY Combined service Cub Scouts	27 Choir 7:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 6 pm	28	29

FEBRUARY 2020

