



MINISTRY@DHUMC



“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:21



MINISTRY@DHUMC

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

March 2019

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

MINISTRY@DHUMC



PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Pastor
Russell

Natural blessings

“All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect. Economic, political, social, and technological developments have increased our human numbers, and lengthened and enriched our lives. However, these developments have led to regional defoliation, dramatic extinction of species, massive human suffering, overpopulation, and misuse and overconsumption of natural and non-

renewable resources, particularly by industrialized societies.”

The Natural World, The United Methodist Social Principles

Preachers fear sore throats more than most, I guess. Often, when I get a sore throat, I’ll gargle with aspirin dissolved in water (please note: my discipline is theology and not medicine).

Apparently, a substance derived from willow bark has been used to relieve pain and inflammation since the 4th century BC.

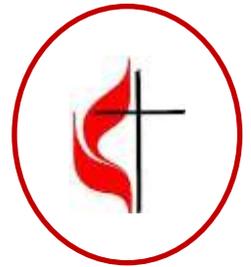
But it was on March 6, 1899, 126 years ago, that a patent was granted for the name “Aspirin,” by which the drug has now become known.

Since then it has been successful in treating many symptoms, such as headaches and inflammatory pain. We’ve also become used to

seeing aspirin recommended as a preventative treatment for some against heart attack or stroke. And recently yet another possible use has been found for this versatile compound – tests have suggested that a regular dose may prove beneficial for women who’ve had early treatment for breast cancer.

It goes without saying, there is no pharmaceutical in the world that will remove all possibility of illness or disease, but what we see as perhaps the most common, humble, and humdrum little pill in our home medicine cabinet does seem to be revealing hidden strengths. Easily overlooked, or taken for granted, but quietly bestowing its positive effects until we rather belatedly discover them. (COLUMN CONTINUES BELOW)

MINISTRY@DHUMC



Natural blessings

(COLUMN CONTINUES)

Aspirin is mass manufactured now, of course, and has come to us through the efforts and abilities of a string of scientists - but in origin it's a gift from the natural world, we people of faith would say it comes from the Creator to human beings in need. United Methodists are certainly people of the

Book and we are a community that shares our God given reason and experience.

We also have developed our tradition of engaging in the work of living faithful lives. Some blessings come through pondering the Scriptures while others are to be found through simply living, and still others come to us because we live our faith through the

community of our tradition.

Lord God of the natural world and everything that is, as we live our daily lives, open our eyes to the gifts and blessings that surround us, especially those from the natural world. And may we, this Lent, remember the humility of your self-offering, your greatest gift to humans in need, in the form of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

Lenten Primer

In the beginning of March, we will launch into Lent. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday (this year March 6) and ending on Holy Saturday (April 20). The word "Lent" comes from the same Anglo-Saxon root as the word "lengthen," that is: *lencten*, meaning "spring." As we move toward spring the days lengthen – Lent.

Lent is a preparation for Easter. In the earliest Christian communities, the season was a period for converts to fast and prepare for

baptism, but by mediaeval times, Lent became a time of penance for all Christians.

The First Sunday's gospel reading describes Jesus' temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday's reading (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ's entry into Jerusalem and his consequent passion and death.

Because Sundays are always "little Easters," the penitential aspect of Lent should properly be replaced each Sabbath day with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

MINISTRY@DHUMC



March Sunday services

Sunday, March 3, Transfiguration (Communion, Miller Musical Setting FWS #2257)

Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-43

103 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

2173 "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

258 "O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair"

Wednesday, March 6, Ash Wednesday (Communion)

Worship with Mary Magdalene Community in the McBurney Chapel

Sunday, March 10, First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

269 "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

420 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

2112 "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

Sunday, March 17, Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-2, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

142 "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee"

2218 "You Are Mine"

261 "Lord of the Dance"

Sunday, March 24, Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

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

2282 "I'll Fly Away"

127 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Sunday, March 31, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

132 "All My Hope Is Firmly Grounded"

140 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

384 "Love, Divine, All Loves Excelling"

MINISTRY@DHUMC



Meet our members

This couple shares many loves, especially for each other



Gardia and Curtis are two of our newer members received by DHUMC on April 8, 2018. When driving by the church one day, they decided to try it out. They visited that following Sunday and “the rest is history.”

It’s no secret that they come as a pair, having married Sept. 2, 2017. Yes, Newlyweds!

Curtis and Gardia grew up in Jamaica but didn’t know one another in their early lives. They met when Curtis traveled from the United States to visit some of his family in Jamaica. There they clicked from the start, and discovered that they shared much in common.

They both loved to cook and spend time together in the kitchen preparing wonderful food. Rice and peas, macaroni and cheese, roast pork and savory chicken soup are some of their favorites.

Curtis and Gardia take pride in their garden during warmer months and harvest its benefits together. They totally enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Something you might already know about Gardia is that she loves taking photos and always looks for the perfect one. She also enjoys crocheting at home.

Something you may not know about Curtis is that he enjoys “fixing things.” He takes pride in making the old look its best! He’s very capable to repair, refinish and paint and he is rewarded by the finished product.

Curtis and Gardia like participating in the DHUMC monthly luncheons and are happy to make themselves available to serve where needed.



Nursery school now accepting registrations for new school year

The Drexel Hill Methodist Church Nursery is accepting registration for the coming school year. Schedule a visit for a tour. Call 610-259-1444 to make an appointment.



MINISTRY@DHUMC



A BAPTISM!

MINISTRY@DHUMC



Our church family witnessed the baptism of Theodore Joseph during Feb. 10 worship services. Theodore is the son of Carrie and TJ Czyzewski. Theodore's Godparents are Megan O'Neill and Christopher Czyzewski. Theodore is the grandchild of Ted Czyzewski and of Barbara and David O'Connell. The baptism was conducted by Pastor Russell Atkinson.



Photos by David Bjorkgren





MINISTRY@DHUMC

What's in a name? At DHUMC, a whole lot



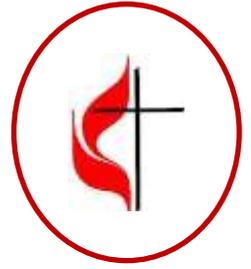
On Sunday, Feb. 24, we were all invited to get to know each other. The membership committee has created new name tags for our worshippers to use during service so we'll know who it is we're talking to during the Peace and at coffee hour.



As an added bonus, everyone was invited to come up to the front and decorate their name tags with markers and stickers so their name tag would reflect their personality and what was most important to them. The tags will be distributed at the beginning of each service and placed in baskets at the conclusion. Let the name calling begin.

Photos by David Bjorkgren

MINISTRY@DHUMC



It was staff appreciation day during our Feb. 10 worship service. Four of our staff members received Valentine's Day gifts in appreciation of the work they do. Pastor Russell, Visitation Pastor Nancy Hawes, Music Director Dan Matarazzo and Sexton Anthony Jenkins were all recognized. **You can see a video of the presentation by clicking on the thank you card on the left.**

The Power of Prayer

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

Our church has a small group of individuals who choose to commit some time to pray for members, friends and others who want to be remembered in prayer or who have requested prayers because they are experiencing difficulties. 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.



MINISTRY@DHUMC



Be an Altar Flower Angel

You can be an angel by delivering altar flowers to someone who could use some beauty in their day...

You can also provide those flowers. Ask Sally Mullin or Cindy Carper for an open week. The cost this year is \$30.

Be an Angel.

PANCAKE SUPPER

The Administrative Council is hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper March 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Rainbow Room.

Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 10. You will find reservation cards in the church bulletin which you can fill out and hand in with the church offering. Come on out for good food and good company as we observe the beginning of the Lenten season the day before Ash Wednesday with this "feast" of pancakes.



MINISTRY@DHUMC



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.

Tuesday Morning Faith Bible Study

Our congregation continues its Bible Study/Faith Formation Class in the new year.



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.

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, March 7.



MINISTRY@DHUMC



There's always room in the choir!

Our choir, under the 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. Music brings much beauty and inspiration in our devotion to God. See Pastor Russell or Dan Matarazzo to find out more, or contact the church office at office@umc.org.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Considering a name change for our church

(Excerpts of a May 6, 1968 notice from the Board of Trustees from the history of DHUMC)

Dear friend,

As you may know, the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church have agreed to unite. The name of the new church is "The United Methodist Church."

This creates something of a problem for us here in Drexel Hill. The word "United" will give us a rather long—if not cumbersome—name. It will look like this: **Broad Street Memorial United Methodist Church of Drexel Hill.**

The Trustees feel that this is the time to give some careful thought to the name of our church and have made a recommendation that the name of the church be changed in a manner that would be easier to handle and yet, at the same time, preserve our identity with, and give due honor to, our parent church—the former Broad Street Methodist Church of Philadelphia. The proposed new name is as follows: **Drexel Hill United Methodist Church.**

The advantages of the new name are:

1. The proposed new name is less cumbersome and easier to handle.
2. The new name will be more accurate. There is no "Broad Street" in Drexel Hill and considerable confusion results when strangers try to identify our church with a Broad Street in Drexel Hill.
3. It is proposed that the by-line "formerly Broad Street Methodist Church, Philadelphia" be printed under the new name on our church bulletins, church stationery, etc.

The congregation will discuss and vote on this matter immediately following 11 o'clock service on Sunday, May 19.



MINISTRY@DHUMC



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
 David Bjorkgren
 Jane Todd
 Russell Atkinson

crcarp@verizon.net
sallyannemullin@gmail.com
chuckster242@comcast.net
dmatarazzo90@gmail.com
crcarp@verizon.net
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
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.

MINISTRY@DHUMC



IN THE COMMUNITY

Yum! Another touchdown at Souper Bowl Sunday!

Our church hosted another successful "Souper Bowl of Caring" soup and sandwich luncheon Sunday, Feb. 3. This year's annual event generated 229.5 pounds of food and \$73 cash for the Upper Darby Food Bank, which distributes food to help local families in need.

The church has been involved in the national Souper Bowl of Caring project for more than 10 years. Here are some photo highlights of the luncheon. **Click on the football photo below to see an accompanying video of the luncheon.**



Photos by Alex Mullin





MINISTRY@DHUMC



MINISTRY@DHUMC



Scouts proudly represented at Feb. 17 worship service

Continuing a tradition that goes back decades, the church's chartered Boy Scout Troop 32 and Cub Scout Pack 92 attended our Sunday worship for the annual Scout Sunday.

The Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance, recited the Scout Oath and Law and provided the Scripture readings for the service. Pastor Russell also offered a sermon that included a question and answer with the Scouts. The church is proud to sponsor our Scouts and to have them participate in our services each year.

Photos by Alex Mullin





MINISTRY@DHUMC





MINISTRY@DHUMC



MINISTRY@DHUMC



There's a scent of Pinewood in the air

Our own Cub Scout Pack 92 participated in the annual Pinewood Derby which was held in the church gymnasium in February. The Scouts built their own unpowered miniature cars from wood using a kit, then raced the cars against each other. Below are two photos from this year's event.



MINISTRY@DHUMC



The following thank you note was received at Drexel Hill United Methodist Church:

From Pastor Russell:

Thank you dear congregation for your generous Valentine's Day gift. I have never received a Valentine's gift from a congregation before - this was a brilliant windfall at our house!



I have not yet sorted out how to use most of it, but two things I've done so far are to replace a camera I lost on a construction trip to Haiti in 2012, following the earthquake there. It is an 8x Lumix pocket camera, with a Leica lens. The other thing I've done so far is much more Valentine-esque - a few months ago Barbara injured her ring finger. The swelling was such that I needed to cut through her wedding band to prevent loss of circulation. The jeweler has repaired the band and I was once more in the happy circumstance of slipping the ring onto Barbara's finger.

We are blessed to be part of the life and ministry of Drexel Hill United Methodist Church. Thank you so much for all your kindness.

Peace,
Russell J. Atkinson



MINISTRY@DHUMC



FOOD BANK

Lenten Days

Our Outreach Committee's food bank ministry wants to challenge you to an experiment in Christian stewardship for the season of Lent. Tithe your groceries! Consider buying 10 percent more groceries from Ash Wednesday until Easter (or calculating the 10 percent cash equivalent) and donating it to the food bank. We have been very fortunate - the fortunes of needy families in our community could be uplifted by our Lenten pilgrimage to deeper faith.

Please bring canned and boxed nonperishable foods such as: cereal, tuna, jello and pudding, pasta, soup, canned pasta meals.

Our Drexel Hill UMC food collection is gathered in the narthex. You may bring a contribution at any time. *"For I was hungry and you gave me to eat."*

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 March 24. If you'd like to make difference in the lives of others, please contact Pastor Atkinson.



RSC LUNCHEON



The next RSC Community Luncheon will be the fourth Saturday of March, 2019, on, March 23, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Rainbow Room. The Project Reach Serve Care program provides a free hot catered lunch and friendly fellowship, to anyone in the community who wishes to attend.

MINISTRY@DHUMC



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



Florida delegates Rachael Sumner (front left) and the Rev. Jacqueline Leveron (front right) of the Florida Conference join in prayer with bishops and other delegates at the front of the stage before a key vote on church policies about homosexuality.

2019 General Conference passes Traditional Plan

On Tuesday, Feb. 26, after hours of delaying tactics by opponents, the United Methodist General Conference 2019 delegates passed The Traditional Plan 438 to 384.

A last-ditch effort to bring the One Church Plan back as a minority report was defeated in the morning and was followed by efforts to amend the Traditional Plan to address constitutionality issues raised by the Judicial Council, the church's top court.

The approved, amended Traditional Plan affirms the church's current bans on ordaining LGBTQ clergy and officiating at or hosting same-sex marriage. But it adds stronger enforcement provisions.

By a slim, 10-vote margin, the body also voted to request another declaratory decision by the UMC's Judicial Council on the constitutionality of the Traditional Plan. The Judicial Council will address the request at its next scheduled meeting April 23-25 in Evanston, Illinois.

The Rev. Gary Graves, secretary of General Conference, said any piece of legislation that the Judicial Council declares unconstitutional will not be included in the Book of Discipline, the denomination's policy book. [READ MORE](#)

MINISTRY@DHUMC



AROUND THE WORLD

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



Participants hold signs during an interfaith gathering at Rajah Sulayman plaza in Manila. Satur Ocampo (left), a well-known social activist, commended the interfaith initiative, calling it “a signal that society should not remain silent in the face of such exigencies.” Photo by Gladys Mangiduyo, UMNS.

New concerns over human rights in Philippines

By Gladys Mangiduyos

When United Methodists joined thousands of interfaith participants rallying at Rajah Sulayman Plaza in Manila recently, it was just the latest effort to call attention to human rights violations in the Philippines.

Church members, concerned about the escalation of threats and violent incidents, are seeking God’s wisdom and strength through prayer, said the Rev. Reynaldo Hernandez of Living Word United Methodist Church in Marikina City, Metro Manila. [SEE MORE](#)

MINISTRY@DHUMC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		26	27	28	1	2
3 Membership committee meets 11:20	4 Boy Scouts 7 pm	5 Bible Study 9:30am Pancake supper 5- 7pm	6 Ash Wednesday Ash Wednesday evening service Cub Scouts 7 p.m.	7 Devotional breakfast 9 am Lenten Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30pm	8	9
10	11 Ad Council 7pm	12 Bible Study 9:30am	13 Cub Scouts 7pm	14 Choir reh. 7:30	15	16 Cub Scouts Blue and Gold banquet noon
17	18 Boy Scouts 7pm	19 Bible Study 9:30	20 Cub Scout 7 p.m.	21	22 Confirmation Class 6-8pm	23 RSC Lunch 11:30
24	25 Boy Scouts 7pm	26 Bible Study 9:30- 11 a.m. Trustees 7pm	27 Cub Scout 7 p.m.	28	29	30 Railroad Society 9-3:30 31 Welcome Church 2 pm

MARCH 2019