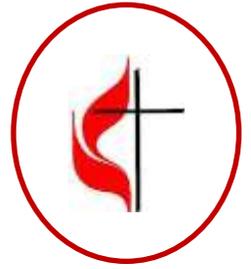


# MINISTRY@DHUMC



## SPECIAL "STAY AT HOME" EDITION

**Editor's Note:** These have been trying times, and a little scary. Who would have thought when 2020 started that we would be here, separated from each other, anxious about our health and financial well-being? Yet through the fear and uncertainty come stories of love, sacrifice and generosity. Though apart, we still share a sense of community that reaches beyond the confines of our homes.

This is obviously a different kind of newsletter. Our church building is closed for group worship and many church activities have temporarily stopped or moved on line. But we are still a church, people of faith who remain here for each other and for anyone who is in need, fulfilling God's purpose.

Though we can't be together physically, we'll give you information that will help you stay connected through our weekly YouTube video worship services, through online Zoom meetings and social gatherings, by email and phone until we can once again come together to worship in person. *Meanwhile, a joyous Easter to you!*



**“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:20**

### MINISTRY@DHUMC

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

APRIL 2020

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Everyone!

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Everyone!

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Visit often for updates on church activities.

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/drexelhillmethodists](https://www.facebook.com/drexelhillmethodists)

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# MINISTRY@DHUMC



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Pastor  
Russell

## IS IT DAWN?

*“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”* **John 11:21. (Luke 4:18-19)**

Behind the coronavirus headlines, the southern border news, and the perceived or actual fruitlessness of our Federal legislature are the stories of the anonymous people these big stories touch, press, and push.

In the mass-media-worthy stories touching people's lives lay other untold events and happenings that deeply affect individuals and families: death, birth, broken or new relationships, loss, fresh discovery - the moments and hours of everyday that constitute our lives.

A few years ago, in the town where I was a pastor, an elderly couple were confronted in their home by burglars who attacked and robbed them, leaving them bruised and traumatized.

Then the old securities of home seemed less sure. A cousin who took care of them declared that his faith

in human nature was shattered.

The incident that shocked the family did not make the local news; it barely registered beyond the immediate neighborhood.

Yet it brought together friends, congregations, and neighbors to offer comfort and practical support. With such help, security and trust were gradually restored.

In John O'Donohue's poem '**After a Destructive Encounter**' is these words:

*Withdraw for a while into  
your own tranquility,  
Don't allow your sense of  
yourself to wilt.  
Draw deep from your own  
dignity.  
And take your time carefully,  
Learning that there is a time  
for everything  
And for healing too,  
But that now is not that time .  
. . . yet.*

Every new day that dawns is an invitation for renewal, restoration, and refreshment.

I believe God offers us each day as a means of healing the wounds of earlier times. The dawn's light is meant to renew the broken spirit.

Here at Drexel Hill United Methodist Church, we are confronted by a new dawn, whether we expected it or not. Our old ideas have been challenged by new realities. The challenge is that we have everything we need to meet this new dawn.

The challenge is to see how our past can serve to project us into the future and not serve as a millstone round our necks.

Seeing another day begin is meant to reassure us of the truth that faith and hope that have been lost can and will come to life again – and flourish! Are you ready for God to refresh the wastelands of your heart so that joy may bloom again this day? I am. God is ready also.

A blessed Spring!

# MINISTRY@DHUMC



While it's true we can't meet in person as a congregation, not everything at the church has come to a screeching halt. It's important now in this time of isolation to connect with our living, breathing church. Here's how to stay involved.



Right now, the two best ways to keep up to date with church activities (aside from any personal contacts you may have with church members) is through emails and calling the church office at 610-259-2104.



If you have email, make sure you are on the church's email list so you can receive notifications and links to online activities, Bible Studies, meetings, worship services, newsletters, social gatherings, etc.

- If you have email but don't think you're receiving notifications from the church, call the church office. Pastor Russell regularly monitors any calls to the church and can have your name added to the church's email mailing list. You can also email him at [pastor@dhumc.org](mailto:pastor@dhumc.org).
- If you don't have email but would like to keep up with what the church is doing, you can still call the church office and arrange to have someone get the information or help you need.

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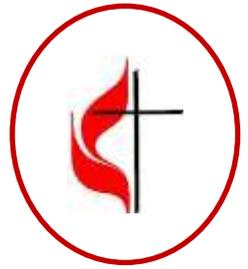


- ✦ The church has also asked volunteers to contact people while they are isolated in their homes to make sure they are doing OK, to keep them informed and to invite them to keep in touch and get involved if they can...
- ✦ If you would like someone from the church to check in with you, call the church office at 610-259-2104, or email Pastor Atkinson at [pastor@dhumc.org](mailto:pastor@dhumc.org).

## Worship Service



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Thanks to some excellent video editing skills and a determination to keep our worship services going, Pastor Atkinson is producing a weekly worship service video that can be viewed from the comfort of your home every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. on the [Drexel Hill United Methodist Church YouTube channel](#).



The video service includes:

- a. An introduction and narration from the pastor, recorded at Drexel Hill United Methodist Church.
- b. Interactive prayers and responses.
- c. Scripture readings from members of the congregation recorded in their homes.
- d. Accompanying photos highlighting the service themes.
- e. Instrumental music, including, so far, Amy Connelly on violin and Music Director Dan Matarazzo on piano. Music was recorded either from the artists' homes or in the church sanctuary.

# MINISTRY@DHUMC



- f. Vocal music and hymns with, so far, Chris Lenz, David Bjorkgren and Pastor Russell recorded on video at the church.
- g. Announcements, a short sermon, and a Benediction.

The video service for that day is accompanied by a church bulletin emailed to congregants.

## **Here's How It Works.**

The pastor sends out an email on the church email mailing list a day or so before Sunday to alert people that an email will be sent out Sunday morning containing:

- A YouTube link to that week's service.
- A word document containing that Sunday service's church bulletin.

When the email arrives on Sunday morning, wait until 10 a.m., the time of our regular service.

You can then open up the document and you'll see the familiar format of our church bulletin. This allows you to follow along with the video.

The email also contains one or two links to the video posted on the church's YouTube channel. All you have to do is click on the link. The video should open up and start playing. You can also click the play button.

By opening the video at 10 a.m., you are assured that you are participating in the worship service at the same time as other congregants. The video runs about 20 minutes. Just follow through the video until the end, and then it's safe to close it.

# MINISTRY@DHUMC



## BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

Pastor Russell also sends out a second email with another link once the service is over.

That email is an invitation to join our coffee gathering after services on Zoom.

Zoom is a video conferencing app that allows anyone with a smart phone or desktop computer camera to see and talk with each other at the same time.



- ✓ Once you see the email from Pastor Atkinson, just click on the link.
- ✓ The email includes a Meeting ID and password, but you shouldn't need those. Clicking the link should open up the meeting.
- ✓ You can join the gathering with audio only or on full video mode.
- ✓ Don't be intimidated by all the activity you'll see. It takes a little while to get used to how everything works, but Zoom is very user friendly.

This has been a great way for all of us to keep in touch with each other and is being used for the coffee hour after the video service as well as for church meetings and Bible Studies.

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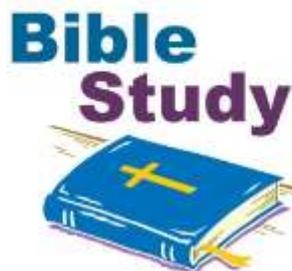


## YouTube Archive

If you can't watch the worship service video at 10 a.m. on Sundays, you can still catch the service on the church's YouTube channel at any time. All of the services, along with many of the other videos from the church are on the site.

To get to the worship services, click on playlist, then Sunday morning worship service. All of the service videos are listed there for viewing.

## Bible Studies



Speaking of Zoom, the church is currently offering two Bible studies on line.

One is the regular Tuesday morning Bible study, "Seculosity," that was taking place in the Pastor's study. The group continues to meet regularly on Zoom.

The other is a Lenten Bible study finishing up next week that was meeting Thursday evenings but is now also on Zoom.

If interested in participating in either Study, call the church office at 610-259-2104, or email Pastor Russell at [pastor@dhumc.org](mailto:pastor@dhumc.org) and he can send you the Zoom link and other pertinent information.



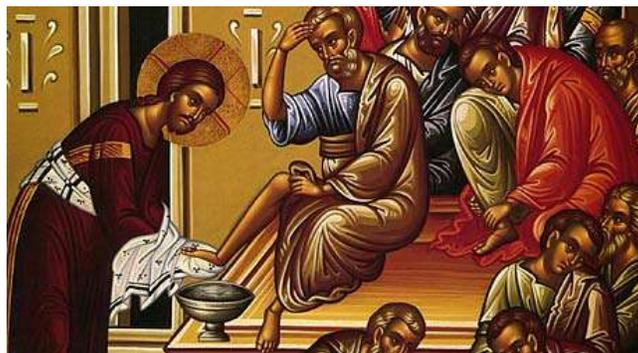
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## So Why Is the Church Building Closed?



With all the media coverage of the pandemic and efforts to slow down the spread of COVID-19, the answer is probably obvious to most of you. However, Pastor Russell offers up a video that explains more about how this impacts Drexel Hill United Methodist Church. You can watch the March 18 video by clicking [here](#). Please note that the two week closure order mentioned in the video has been extended indefinitely.



# MINISTRY@DHUMC



## The Ten Commandments for Coronavirus Prevention in Faith Communities

By: Dr. Kevin Murriel

Several weeks ago, my wife and I were watching the news and witnessed the global panic of COVID-19, better known as Coronavirus. At the time, no known cases had been discovered in the United States.

With the rapid spread of COVID-19, many religious leaders and people of faith are questioning how this will directly affect their worship and service in the world. I serve as the senior pastor of one of the largest churches in the Southeast and we, at our core, are a loving congregation. Members and guests come from miles around to feel the “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” of Cascade United Methodist Church. At least 2,000 people visit our church throughout the week and personal contact is inevitable.

After receiving texts and emails from pastor friends and congregants, the concern is the same: how do we keep the fellowship within our congregations vibrant, while remaining safe, as we deal with coronavirus at least for the foreseeable future?

To help me address this concern, I convened a meeting with several top health professionals including my friend and Leadership Atlanta classmate, Dr. Sandra Elizabeth Ford who currently serves as Director of the DeKalb County Board of Health and Interim Director of the Fulton County Board of Health. During this meeting, we discussed best practices for faith communities to implement to prevent the spread of coronavirus and to calm any fear or anxiety regarding the virus.

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## Here are the Ten Commandments for Coronavirus (COVID-19) Prevention in Faith Communities:

1. THOU SHALL NOT PANIC– It’s important that we educate our congregants using facts not myths. “Coronavirus” has been around for years. In humans, coronaviruses infect cells of the upper respiratory and gastrointestinal tract and are responsible for about one third of all common colds. The current strand of coronavirus, COVID-19, has people most concerned because it has been linked to a higher rate of mortality. However, the CDC estimates that so far this season there have been at least 32 million flu illnesses, 310,000 hospitalizations and 18,000 deaths from the flu. The reality is, we should always be cautious during flu season in particular, but coronavirus should not cause us to panic. Health experts suggest that prevention is the best course of action.

2. THOU SHALL CLEAN THY HANDS REGULARLY AND THOROUGHLY–The number one recommendation has been to wash your hands thoroughly, as often as possible, with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Before shaking hands or engaging in any human contact, we should make sure our hands are clean. The CDC also recommends refraining from touching your eyes or mouth before you have washed your hands.

3. THOU SHALL ENGAGE IN SOCIAL DISTANCING– The CDC and various health departments are recommending a six-foot distance from one another. Replace hugs, handshakes and other “personal touches” with a wave, nod or other virtual signs.

4. THOU SHALL MAKE SANITIZER AVAILABLE– If possible, sanitizer should be made available in as many places as possible. If you have your own sanitizer, use it as often as you need to when soap and water aren’t available. Also, you may want to be a good neighbor and offer sanitizer to others as they have need.

# MINISTRY@DHUMC



5. THOU SHALL LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AND CARE FOR THYSELF– In Matthew 22:39, Jesus says the second greatest commandment is to “love thy neighbor as thyself.” If you are sick or experiencing cold-like symptoms, please love your neighbor enough to stay home and love yourself enough to get well. If you develop symptoms, call your healthcare professional for advice.

6. THOU SHALL PUT SIGNS IN RESTROOMS– Placing signs in restrooms reminding people to wash their hands thoroughly, and providing instructions for proper hand-washing can be very effective in coronavirus prevention.

7. THOU SHALL NOT DISCRIMINATE– The new strand of coronavirus (COVID-19) originated in China. Since then, there have been numerous incidents of discrimination towards the Asian community. As people of faith, we should affirm all of God’s people as sacred worth and should denounce this type of evil.

8. THOU SHALL BE CONSIDERATE OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS– Like any health crisis; there are certain populations more at risk that need our attention and care. Our senior citizens, as well as individuals with co-morbid conditions in our congregations should be considered high on our priority list for care. Make regular wellness calls to seniors within your worship community to ensure they have everything they need. We should be doing this regularly anyway; however, it should especially be done until coronavirus is eradicated.

9. THOU SHALL BE WISE WITH TRANSPORTATION– Faith communities with transportation ministries should take precautionary measures to ensure vehicles are thoroughly cleaned inside and that sanitizer is offered in transit. Faith communities doing outreach should ensure all volunteers sign waivers of liability, and should food be distributed, precautions should be taken to protect those being served. For such precautions, refer to commandment #2.

10. THOU SHALL PRAY– After following every commandment and being as cautious as possible, at our core, we are people who believe in the power of prayer. We should pray for God to heal our land. We should pray for the families already affected by COVID-19. We should pray for faith to continue worshipping and serving. We should pray for our leaders and health professionals working diligently to contain and respond to this virus. We should pray and care for each other.

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## EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

Even if we can't worship together in the sanctuary right now, there's no reason we can't make the sanctuary look beautiful for our Easter Sunday video, or bring some joy and sunshine to someone we love and care about.

Potted Easter flowers will be available for Easter Sunday, April 12. The cost of a flower is \$10. To order an Easter flower, please provide the following information, along with a check made payable to:

"DHUMC" to:  
Easter Flower Order  
Drexel Hill United Methodist Church  
600 Burmont Road  
Drexel Hill, PA 19026.

Provide a name and phone number, who you would like the Easter flower in honor of/who you would like the Easter flower in memory of, who is presenting it, the dollar amount enclosed.

Indicate if you want to pick up the flower by contacting Sally Mullin at [sallyannemullin@gmail.com](mailto:sallyannemullin@gmail.com) or want the flower delivered to a shut-in (which right now is everybody!). The deadline for orders is Palm Sunday, April 5.

# MINISTRY@DHUMC



## Garden and Grub



The Garden and Grub Club have great plans for another beautiful garden and landscaping on the grounds of Drexel Hill United Methodist Church.

The pandemic put a bit of a wrench into their April 4 gathering to prepare the grounds for our Easter worship service.

That said, the group plans to continue meeting as soon as it is safe to do so.

Garden and Grub normally meets on the third Thursday of each month, 8:45-11 a.m., beginning in May. In addition to light gardening work, there's always time for a cup of coffee and a donut.

*“In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.”*

**“Hymn of Promise” by Natalie Sleeth speaks to our feelings of anticipation for the beauty of life to come.**

# MINISTRY@DHUMC



## Caring Ministries/Prayer Chain

By Jane Leggieri

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.

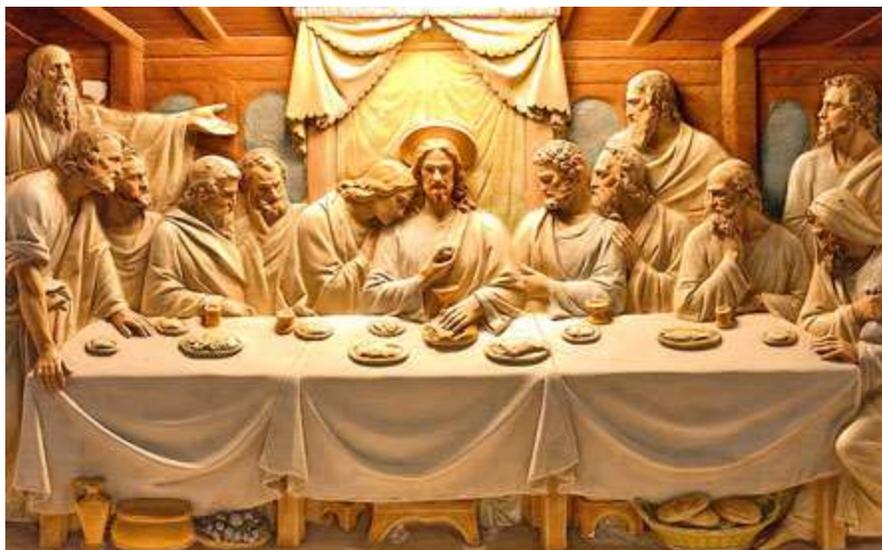


Today, when we learn of a member, friend or situation of concern, those who participate in the prayer chain are informed of the need for prayer by e-mail.

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.

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](mailto:ferrante.leggieri@comcast.net)



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## United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church is offering resources, information and inspirational articles to help all of us cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. You can access their website [here](#).

[And Lest We Forget, This Was How Our Lives Looked When Things Were Fairly Normal, all of four weeks ago!](#)



The church choir had a unique birthday greeting for music director Dan Matarazzo at the March 8 worship service. Dan was celebrating his benchmark 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. Dan seems amused, and slightly confused.

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## Scout Sunday

Finally, we look back to Feb. 16, 2020, our annual Scout Sunday worship service with these photos from Alex Mullin.



May we all soon be gathering together again in worship and fellowship.

Meanwhile, take care of yourselves, take care of your families and look out for your neighbors.

Blessings on everyone as we come into Holy Week and a happy Easter to all!