

# MINISTRY@DHUMC



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

“And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.”

Genesis 2:8 (KJV)



## February's Garden

**W**ith all the fear and misunderstanding of Islam around these days, it might be a helpful corrective to remember that, just a generation or two ago, there was great distrust among Christians. The coming of February causes me to remember one who worked on bringing down the barriers among Christians - Archie Craig. He was the first Church of Scotland Moderator to visit a Pope – John XXIII (Presbyterians and Roman Catholics did not have a history of getting along). I particularly value two of the many wise things Archie Craig said. One has something of a Valentine's Day connection . . .

He was asked once, when he was in his 90s, how he coped with his wife who

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(Continued) dignity and pleasure of thinking she was still in charge. When asked how he coped he said, "I have had to relearn the alphabet of love."

Another February thing he said that sticks in my mind, "There is a time of the year in Scotland, it is about the middle of February, when you will see a dream in the eye of the garden-lover; a dream which is not the bastard of wishful thinking, but the lawful offspring of the garden-lover's knowledge of sun and soil and seed." I am fairly confident he didn't mean anything as prosaic as "after winter comes spring" – I think he meant that after winter had prevented him from enjoying the delight that the gardener knows, around about February the anticipation of gardening pleasure and satisfaction begins to take hold. And even more important is the unanticipated pleasure when what was a random placing of plants, bulbs, or shrubs creates an effect one did not plan but can certainly enjoy.

C S Lewis once said that there was something about longing and expectation which was like the scent of a flower we haven't found, the echo of a tune we haven't heard, news from a country we've never visited. That's the dream in the eye of the garden lover in mid-February; and what people of faith mean when we talk about encountering God: not always certainty, but often longing.

*God, who created the garden, show us the longing for you that meets your longing for us. Amen.*

## WORSHIP NOTES



### Celebrating the Ordinary

**F**or those of us whose lives are shaped not just by the yearly weather variations, school, and work calendars, but also by faith, the season after Epiphany can be a time for refreshment.

Our liturgical seasons and calendar have November, December, and early January creating a whirlwind of work. With All Saints and Advent, then Christmas and Epiphany, our days travel from one celebration after another. The toils are not just the work of preparing. The lessons and themes of the season make their demands, posing questions about who we are and what we are called to be. There is all this work and then suddenly the wind drops and we are still.

This year, 2017, sees the time between Epiphany (Jan. 6) and Ash Wednesday (March 1 this year) last longer than in most years. We enter what is called "ordinary time," but it is not given that

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(Continued) name because the days are any less important, but because we count the Sundays from Epiphany to the beginning of Lent. It is a matter of "order;" we use ordinal numbers - first, second, third, fourth . . . last. A better name for this season might be "counting time."

I wonder if these days are a gift from tradition and the liturgical calendar. The absence of great events in the period from Epiphany to Lent might also serve as a blessing to reflect and slow down. We may be invited to order our time to be refreshed and readied. We are not just marking time. These long, gray days also offer the moments to digest and understand everything that is promised and then given in Advent and Christmastide. These are moments when everything slows down enough that we begin to fathom both what has been done for us and how we are called to respond.

We have heard the prophets and the angels. We have met the magi on their journey. The lessons and celebrations that come in a landslide during the months just past invite reflection. These few weeks of "counting time" are for more than counting. It is ordinary time but a time that is far from ordinary.



## February services

### **5 February Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

#### Communion

Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12); Ps 111:1-10 (UMH 833); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Mt 5:13-20

Sermon: "C+/A- Discipleship"

### **12 February Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8 (UMH 840); 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon: "A Dance Invite"

### **19 February Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Ps 119:33-40 (UMH 840); I Cor 3:10-11, 16-23; Mt 5:38-48

Sermon: "Life Minus a Few Teeth"

### **26 February BOY SCOUT SUNDAY**

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99 (UMH 819); 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon: "Camporee"

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## From the trustees:

# Choir sings praises over new musical chairs

### *The Mercy Seat(s).*

You may hear a more convincing “Halleluiah!” from our Chancel Choir these days; they are sitting in more plausible seats of grace.

According to the Hebrew Scriptures, the mercy seat was the gold lid with two cherubim beaten out of the ends of it to form a covering over this gold lid and placed on the Ark of the Covenant. This was connected with the rituals of the Day of Atonement; where God did appear.

Our new choir seats are not gold, but cushioned and upholstered in blue. And they don't come from Israel, but Clifton Heights!

Alex Mullin and Russell Atkinson went over in mid-December to collect the 18 metal-framed chairs offered by CHUMC.

On the last week in December, Jim Hatten

got a crew together to remove the front two nave pews on the lectern-side, and placed the new choir chairs.



*These beautiful new chairs came to our choir, compliments of Clifton Heights United Methodist Church.*

**Photo by Alex Mullin**

were received graciously and applauded, but had to dash to make it back to Drexel Hill, where Rev. Hawes and Barb O'Connell had kindly served to lead the beginning of our worship.

Choir seats are more comfortable than the pews – you may want to consider joining . . .

All our vocalists agree, the chairs are more comfortable than the pews, and it is much easier to get up to sing with the wider space the chairs provide.

On Sunday, Jan. 15, our Choir Director, Dan Matarazzo, took our grateful singers to Clifton Heights UMC to offer a musical thank you at the beginning of Clifton's worship service. They

## Boy Scout Sunday Feb. 26 at Drexel Hill UMC

Be sure to be in church Feb. 26, 10 a.m., to celebrate Boy Scout Sunday, honoring the contributions made by our local Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack.

Since 1932, our congregation has provided space for Boy

Scouts to meet, learn citizenship, and become leaders.

On Feb. 26, Boy Scout Troop 32 and Cub Scout Pack 92 will attend worship, presenting their colors, offering their Oaths and their Pledges.

A reception takes place in Fellowship Hall following the service.

If you were a Scout and still have an old piece of uniform or memorabilia, please bring it, and a story or two, to share with the current Scouts at the reception.

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## **A BLAST FROM THE PAST**

### **History of Troop #32, Cub Pack #92**

**In honor of Boy Scout Sunday this month, we are looking back at the history of the church's sponsored Boy Scout Troop No. 32 and Cub Scout Pack No. 92. The histories can be found on pages 147 to 149 of "A History of Drexel Hill United Methodist Church."**

## History of Troop #32, Cub Pack #92

By Roy Dohner, Emerya D. Nuneville, George Burns and George Cocco

The Broad Street Memorial Methodist Church (now the Drexel Hill United Methodist Church) accepted the charter for the second troop originated in Drexel Hill in April 1926.

It immediately acquired the name of Drexel Hill Troop 2, while nationally it was designated Troop #32 of the Delmont Council, later changed to Valley Forge Council.

The troop was sponsored by the Men's Bible Class who presented United States and Boy Scouts Flags to them in 1943.

Howard A. Sines was the first Scoutmaster, serving from 1926 to 1929.

As of 1984, when the Scout history was written (covering 58 years), Troop #32 had introduced approximately 1,760 boys to the Scouting program.

During this same time period, at least 150 adult leaders involving troop committeemen, scoutmasters and assistant scoutmasters maintained continuous programs of scouting in the church.

At the time the history was written, Troop #32 had 34 Scouts attain Eagle Scout.

### **Cub Pack #92**

The Broad Street Memorial Methodist Church (now the Drexel Hill United Methodist

Church) with the sponsorship of the Emil Bohn Bible Class accepted the charter for a new Cub Pack on April 21, 1944. The Valley Forge Council assigned No. 92 to the new Pack and designated District Scout Executive Roy Dohner and Dr. E. Bruce Thomas, to train the new leaders to administer the cubbing program.

Pack No. 92 started its program with 46 eager cubs. During the year 1945, the Pack received special recognition in the Upper Darby District Yearbook for its participation in the Winter Hobby Show, the Spring Pack Outing, the Summer Program and the Cubbing Pow-Wow. In addition, 20 cubs qualified for a special award known as the "General Eisenhower Award."

The Pack completed the 10 tests to receive the "Honor Unit Award" for the years 1980-81-82. Completing 40 years of cubbing, the Pack (at the time the Cub Pack history was written) had seen 19 of its previous cubs advance to become Eagle Scouts in Drexel Hill Troop #32. Their cub flag and a United States flag were presented to them by the Emil Bohn Class.

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## Acolytes Do Brighten Up Everything!



*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God, and all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the LIGHT of men. The LIGHT shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*

from John 1:1

### Training/lunch Feb. 19

Our Acolytes will have a "brush up" on skills and technique followed by lunch!

An introduction and instruction meeting will take place Sunday, Feb. 19, following morning worship.

We will learn the use and maintenance of the tapers and lighters, the processional Cross, and how to serve as a chaliceist during Communion.

Light is a very important symbol in our faith. When acolytes begin our worship by lighting the candles, they do something fairly simple -- but it symbolizes something ancient, strong, and deeply important to the Christian story.

Although anyone is welcome to serve as an acolyte, we are especially interested in introducing this ministry to upper elementary and youth members of our worshipping community, whether boy or girl.

Please contact Pastor Atkinson with questions and inquiries, 610.675.7187 or [pastor@dhum.org](mailto:pastor@dhum.org).

## Tradition of prayer chain brings God's help to those in need

The Drexel Hill United Methodist Church Prayer Chain consists of several people who have chosen to spend time each day praying for those who have requested prayer, for those who are facing difficult times and for those who are no longer able to be in worship with us each Sunday.

We rely on information from the church bulletin, announcements made in church and information from one another.

We do not schedule meetings, have no officers, and don't take minutes. When we know of requests for prayer, we contact one another by e-

mail, text message or phone to pass on the information.

So think about it, there really is something you can do to show caring and support for one another. You can pray. If you would like to become a part of our prayer chain you can contact the church office or let Jane Leggieri know about your interest.



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## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Souper Bowl of Caring at Drexel Hill UMC

On Sunday, Feb. 5, Drexel Hill United Methodist Church will host its annual Souper Bowl of Caring, starting 11:30 a.m. after regular services in Fellowship Hall on the School Lane side of the church.

Guests are invited to enjoy hot bowls of soup,

prepared sandwiches, and good conversation, all part of a special event to help out the Upper Darby Food Bank.

Price of admission is an item or items of donated food or money, which will be used to purchase food as needed. Just bring the donations

with you and enjoy a place at our table.

Last year, the church's Souper Bowl of Caring collected 342 pounds of food and goods for the Upper Darby Food Bank as well as \$132.

The Food Bank currently needs macaroni & cheese,

crackers, powdered milk, pancake mix, syrup, cereal, toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, canned vegetables, corned beef, canned stew, spam and juice.

No perishable items, please.



The next Dine to Donate event will take place Monday, Feb. 27, at the Outback Steakhouse on Baltimore Pike in Springfield.

Come out and enjoy dinner with your friends and family, and a percentage of your check will be donated back to Drexel Hill UMC.



The RSC luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 25, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in 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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## The Occasional Film Critic

# 'Silence' brings religious freedom into focus

By Pastor Russell J. Atkinson



### In Cinemas now

**Directed by:** Martin Scorsese

**Starring:** Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver, Liam Neeson

**Produced by:** Barbara De Fina, Randall Emmett

**Screenplay by:** Jay Cocks, Martin Scorsese

“Silence” begins with two priests, Rodriguez (played by Andrew Garfield) and Garrpe (Adam Driver), who go to Japan to look for their mentor, Father Ferreira (Liam Neeson), who is missing.

Both Rodriguez and Garrpe have incredible faith in God and in Ferreira, and feel that it is their duty to find and rescue him from whatever danger in which he may be.

The plot pivots around the persecution of Roman Catholics in Japan and the extreme lengths they go to protect and keep their faith. This devotion is mirrored by the Japanese Imperial inquisitors and the lengths to which they go to keep Japan Buddhist.

This film reminded me of what a jumble the past can become in our minds – while we remember much about the 20th century, we have trouble keeping the events of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries apart.

“Silence” is possibly a good comparison to the 1986 film “The Mission” about the experience of Jesuits in 18th century South America. But this comparison, while intriguing in story and action, is lacking historically. Japan and Brazil, the 1600s and the 1700s, can be as distant as any times and places.

A little bit of the story: when Rodriguez and Garrpe arrive in Japan, they are welcomed with open arms by the small community of Christians and

are humbled by their faith and resilience.

Despite their original mission to search for Father Ferreira, the two priests decide to help this struggling community of persecuted Christians.

“Silence” explores the strengths of people’s faith, by juxtaposing 17th century Buddhism and Roman Catholicism, and the lengths people will go to defend their religion. The film highlights the age-old question of “which religion is right?” This is a recurring theme throughout the film, and once Father Rodriguez becomes the focal character we see how he battles with his inner demon of doubt. What is the difference between religion and faith? Is that difference

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(Continued) apparent in our lives? As the film develops, the motif of silence becomes more important and damaging to Rodriguez's faith. He then begins to question both himself and his faith as the mission to find Father Ferreira takes a strange twist.

"Silence" was a very thought provoking film, likely to cause one to contemplate the luxury of freedom of worship that many of us have today.

This film also forces the viewer to spare a thought for those in parts of the world that are still in a state similar to

Japan in the 1600s, where persecution for being a Christian still takes place.

Religious freedom, even today, even here and now, is not necessarily free.

**(This film is rated R. Running time: 2 hours, 41 minutes)**

## AROUND THE REGION

### **An Appeal to Conscience from Bishop Peggy Johnson** **Reject Actions Banning Refugees and Immigrants from Muslim Countries**

This week President Trump signed an order to suspend any immigration for at least 90 days to anyone from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. These are all Muslim-majority nations. In addition, this same order bars all refugees for at least 120 days and Syrian refugees until further notice.

In response, the Rev. Susan Henry Crowe, General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society, issued the following statement:

**"As followers of Jesus we reject in the strongest terms efforts to halt refugee resettlement or impose a religious test for those facing forced migration. United Methodists around the world are loving their neighbors by welcoming refugees into their congregations and communities."**

This action by our president does not make our country safer. People of ill-intent are able to enter our country by many other means and can also radicalize the people in our country who are not even from these Muslim-majority countries.

Violence against Americans is not a teaching of the Muslim faith. This order from the president will likely increase the incidences of hate crimes being perpetrated against innocent, law-abiding Muslim people in our nation.

I urge you to have conversations in your churches about this situation, mobilize to write letters, speak to your senators and legislators, and most importantly pray. Pray that our country does not close its borders to innocent people who are living in dire and life-threatening conditions in their home country. Jesus calls us to welcome the stranger.

**Bishop Peggy Johnson**



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

## Churches unite in prayer for UMC's future

By John W. Coleman

**“Fill your servants with your Holy Spirit. May they seek you for wisdom, knowledge, love, compassion and clarity as they follow your leading.”**



About 40 congregants repeated that hopeful appeal to God eight times during a special Wednesday night “Concert of Prayer,” Jan. 11, at Lima UMC. Their “Litany of Prayer for Bishops, Clergy and Laity” sought wisdom and compassion that will be much needed by an exploratory body of global leaders whose forthcoming deliberations may help determine the

future state of The United Methodist Church.

The 32-member Commission on a Way Forward, assembled by members of the UMC’s Council of Bishops, will examine church laws and teachings on homosexuality to determine whether to recommend changes to a special session of General Conference in 2019. The body had its first meeting in late January.

In its Praying Our Way Forward Initiative, the Council asked each conference to take turns spending a full week in collective prayer over this endeavor, and Eastern PA was the second conference to do so. Each conference was asked to pray “for the church’s effectiveness in fulfilling our mission of making disciples and for the outcome of the work of the Commission on a Way Forward.”

While churches around the conference reported lifting the denomination in prayer during Sunday and midweek services, Bishop Peggy Johnson invited members to join her at Lima UMC for a special prayer service.

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## AROUND THE WORLD

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

## United Methodist churches offer sanctuary



**By Kathy L. Gilbert**

Jan. 23, 2017 | UMNS

In the heart of an immigrant community in Dallas, the Rev. Owen Ross says his United Methodist congregation of mostly immigrants embodies the scriptural mandate to “love the foreigner as your native-born.”

Ross cites Leviticus 19:34 in talking about why [Christ Foundry United Methodist Mission](#) is one of some 60 United Methodist congregations standing ready to shelter anyone under threat of deportation.

While there is no law against it, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has an unofficial practice of not going into churches or hospitals to take immigrants into custody.

Since the election of President Donald Trump more than 800 places of worship nationwide vowed to shelter and protect immigrants in danger of separation from their families or being returned to countries they fled. [READ MORE](#)

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## February 2017 church calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 9:30 Joyful Ringers rehearsal	30 7:30p Boy Scouts	31	Feb 1 7p Cub Scouts, Fellowship	2 7:30p Adult choir practice	3	4
5 9:30 Joyful Ringers rehearsal 11 Souper Bowl of Caring	6 7p SPRC meeting 7:30p Boy Scouts	7	8 7p Cub Scouts, Fellowship	9 7:30p Adult choir practice	10 6p Cub Scout sleepover	11 9:30 Railroad Historical Soci
12 9:30 Joyful Ringers rehearsal	13 7:30p Boy Scouts	14	15 7p Cub Scouts, Fellowship	16 7:30p Adult choir practice	17 Nursery School closed for P	18
19 9:30 Joyful Ringers rehearsal	20 Nursery School closed for P 7:30p Boy Scouts	21	22 7p Cub Scouts, Fellowship	23 7:30p Adult choir practice	24	25 11:30 Project RSC Luncheon
26 9:30 Joyful Ringers rehearsal 10 Boy Scout Sunday	27 7p Outreach Committee mee 7:30p Boy Scouts	28 7p Trustees meeting	Mar 1 7p Cub Scouts, Fellowship	2 7:30p Adult choir practice	3	4