



# MINISTRY@DHUMC



“One true king knew when to step aside and give up the reins of power—to remove his crown and relinquish his kingdom—all for the sake of glimpsing, just once in a lifetime, the face of a holy child.

He was the Fourth to follow the Star.

His gift was a secret.

The rest of his journey is unknown.”

— Vera Nazarian, *The Perpetual Calendar of Inspiration*



## MINISTRY@DHUMC

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

January 2020

**Editor**  
David Bjorkgren

**Photographer**  
Everyone!

**Contributing Writers**  
Everyone!

**Circulation**  
Rasheedah Abdullah

**Submissions**  
Email David Bjorkgren at [dbjorkgren50@gmail.com](mailto:dbjorkgren50@gmail.com) no later than the third Sunday of each month to have items included in the newsletter.

**Information**  
Website: [www.dhum.org](http://www.dhum.org).  
Visit often for updates on church activities.

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

Church office:  
**Rasheedah Abdullah,**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
610-259-2104  
[office@dhum.org](mailto:office@dhum.org)

**Pastor Russell Atkinson**  
[pastor@dhum.org](mailto:pastor@dhum.org)

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Pastor  
Russell

## GIFT

*"Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day."*

**Our God, Our Help in Ages Past by Issac Watts, 1708**

It has been 20 years ago, this New Years', since we celebrated a new millennium. Astonishing!

I remember watching the television news, envious of those tourists crowding the island paradises in the South Pacific - so as to be the first to greet the new millennium.

Those same islands later torn apart by typhoons; so vulnerable to the rising sea levels of climate change that at next millennium's eve, but certainly sooner than later, there'll be nothing to stand on.

Millions of us joined the partying crowds in city centers for the year 2000, and "Ooohed" and "Aaahed" through some of the most spectacular fireworks ever seen!

And do you remember the millennium bug? Y2K? Some spent the

moments between the old and new millennia anxiously watching their computer monitors.

For the occasion I had a few more canned goods in our larder and more cash than usual in my pocket. World-wide, all those millions of dollars spent preparing for a meltdown that never came!

I spent Millennium Eve quietly at home, but many gathered with groups of friends: a nice dinner, silly games, television on a few minutes to midnight, lots of kissing and prayerful well-wishing to the dropping of the Big Apple, the chimes of Big Ben, or the Harbour of Light in Sidney, Australia.  
(COLUMN CONTINUES)

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## GIFT

COLUMN CONTINUES)

Then a few phone calls to loved ones scattered all over the world.

I recently dusted off old photo albums from the time (yes, do you remember the world before our personal screens?

We used to keep prints in books and negatives in envelopes). Looking at them now is a mixture of pleasure and pain. Some have had a great couple of decades. Others haven't. Some became happy parents, others didn't.

Some were healthy then, and aren't now. Some aren't together anymore, and some have died.

Others were, and are, in love forever and ever.

This much is certainly true, this life . . . this life is a gift. It is a gift from God.

**Loving God, to whom a thousand years are as a day,  
we do not know the future,  
but we stand at the cusp of another year,  
asking your blessing upon those we love  
and handing them into your care  
and keeping:  
body mind and spirit.  
And Lord, in your mercy, even as we may forget you  
Please do not Thou forget us. Amen.**

*Happy New Year!*

**Russell J. Atkinson**



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## January Sunday services

### **Sunday, Jan. 5, Epiphany Sunday (Communion, Miller Musical Setting)**

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-2; Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: "The Mysterious Inclusion" *Pastor Atkinson*

254 "We Three Kings"

2173 Shine, Jesus, Shine

245 The First Noel

### **Sunday, Jan. 12, Baptism of Our Lord**

Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon: "Ready for Revolution" *Pastor Atkinson*

157 "Jesus Shall Reign"

122 "God of the Sparrow God of the Whale"

653 "Christ the Victorious"

### **Sunday, Jan. 19, Second Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Sermon: "Grand Introductions" *Pastor Atkinson*

568 "Christ for the World We Sing"

2087 "We Will Glorify the King of Kings"

188 "Christ Is the World's Light"

**We  
were made  
for  
WORSHIP!**

### **Sunday, Jan. 26, Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 9:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

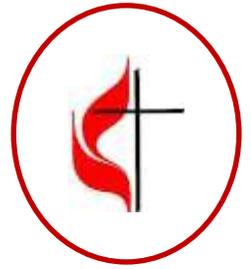
Sermon: "The Sharp Demands of Discipleship" *Pastor Atkinson*

206 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

2218 You Are Mine

261 Lord of the Dance

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## A Congregational Christmas Season

This year's Advent and Christmas season was bustling with activities and traditions. From making Christingles, to hanging of the greens, to singing Christmas carols and buying and wrapping gifts, our congregation spent much of the season getting out of the news.

Things kicked off Sunday, Dec. 1 with the making of Christingles, now a second-year tradition. The congregation was invited to come up to the front and design this orange-candy-dried fruit-candle-ribbon hybrid. The activity concluded with the singing of a Christingle song.

Bishop Johannes de Watteville started this Moravian tradition in 1747 Germany as he looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus.



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Originally represented as just red ruff wrapped around a candle, the symbolic item has evolved to become an orange (representing the world); a red ribbon (representing the love and blood of Christ); candies and dried fruit (representing all of God's creation) and a lit candle (representing Jesus' light in the world, bringing hope to people in darkness.)

Above and below are photos from the Dec. 1 event:

**Photos by David Bjorkgren**

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We followed up our Christingle activity with the launching of Project Angel. This outreach committee event offers congregants a chance to fill a shoebox with Christmas gifts for a child in need in the Upper Darby School District.

A Christmas tree adorned with paper angels was set up Dec. 1 by Barbara Belini and Nancy Agneta. Congregants were asked to select an angel which corresponds to an individual child, then fill an unwrapped shoebox with gift items and return it by Dec. 15. On that Sunday, the shoeboxes were wrapped in the Rainbow Room by volunteers at a wrapping party. The wrapped gift boxes were then picked up by social workers and delivered to families in time for Christmas.

Below are photos from the wrapping party:

**Photos by David Bjorkgren**



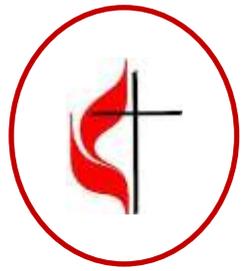
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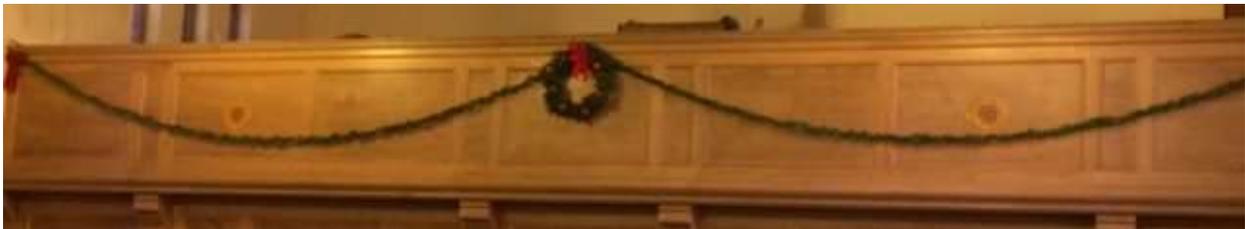


On Dec. 8, we participated in the annual Hanging of the Greens. This activity, in which the sanctuary is adorned with a Christmas tree, greens, and decorations, has traditionally been done by volunteers during the Advent season in the few weeks leading up to Christmas.

This year, volunteer congregants at the Dec. 8 Sunday service described the history and traditions for different aspects of the decorations—the Chrismons, the Tree and Greens, and the Creche. At each point, volunteers were invited to come up and set up the decorations around the church. Each section was followed by the first verse of a related Christmas carol.

Here are some photos of the beautiful decorations, including Christmas wreaths that adorned the outside doors of the church:

**Photos by David Bjorkgren**





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On Sunday, Dec. 22, an older tradition returned to worship as we joined in a “Festival of Christmas Readings and Carols.” The choir offered up anthems “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” and the “Coventry Carol”, congregants joined in with familiar Christmas carols and Jane Marchesano and Suzanne Huffnagle performed “We Three Kings” on violin and viola.

At this special service, Christmas poinsettias in honor of and in memory of family and friends flooded our altar. Plants were also distributed to homebound church members.

Here are a few photos of the altar as it looked that morning:

**Photos by David Bjorkgren**



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Finally, it was Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. The church filled up quickly as Jane Marchesano and Suzanne Huffnagle offered a prelude of traditional carols on violin and viola, joined by Music Director Dan Matarazzo on piano.

The service, honoring the birth of Jesus Christ, featured the choir anthem “Where Shepherds Lately Knelt” and included Scripture readings and a sermon by Pastor Atkinson. The service concluded with a traditional candle lighting ceremony and the singing of “Silent Night” and “Joy to the World.”

**Photos by David Bjorkgren**





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## Music lovers, find your home in the choir

As we pass beyond the Christmas season into the new year, we reflect on how much music brings to our holiday season and 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](mailto:office@umc.org).



## 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, Jan. 2.

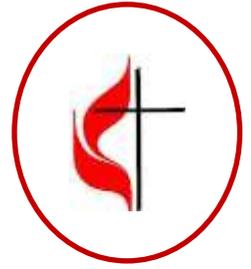


### *The prayer chain.*

If you know of someone in need of prayer, or if you are in need yourself, don't hesitate to contact the church office at 610-259-2104, or email [office@dhum.org](mailto:office@dhum.org) and your request will be given to our volunteer prayer chain.



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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](mailto: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](mailto:crcarp@verizon.net)  
[sallyannemullin@gmail.com](mailto:sallyannemullin@gmail.com)  
[chuckster242@comcast.net](mailto:chuckster242@comcast.net)  
[dmatarazzo90@gmail.com](mailto:dmatarazzo90@gmail.com)  
[ferrante.leggieri@comcast.net](mailto:ferrante.leggieri@comcast.net)  
[pastor@dhum.org](mailto:pastor@dhum.org)  
[docnea@verizon.net](mailto:docnea@verizon.net)  
[giveemhelen@aol.com](mailto:giveemhelen@aol.com)  
[giveemhelen@aol.com](mailto:giveemhelen@aol.com)  
[acmullinv@gmail.com](mailto:acmullinv@gmail.com)  
[texmomoc@verizon.net](mailto:texmomoc@verizon.net)  
[dbjorkgren50@gmail.com](mailto:dbjorkgren50@gmail.com)  
[janedt@verizon.net](mailto:janedt@verizon.net)  
[whitehead.diane@gmail.com](mailto:whitehead.diane@gmail.com)  
[pastor@dhumc.org](mailto: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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## SMILE! You're in Our Church Directory



Sneak preview. Look, it's me, your newsletter editor, as I hope to appear in the new church directory.

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

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.

## Our Way Forward, a brief update

The Church Administrative Council members are currently researching several options to deal with the church's ongoing financial difficulties and will report the findings of the research at the Jan. 13 Administrative Council meeting.

The hope is to choose a path for the church's future sometime later in January. The Administrative Council's work is based on two questions proposed for the congregation and the board: What is the relationship of the ministry of DHUMC to our building? What is the relationship of the ministry of DUUMC to our Endowment Fund?

Congregants were invited to ask questions and give input at two congregational group meetings Sept. 22 and Oct. 6. The input from those meetings has been included in the Council's research.

More updates will be provided as information becomes available.



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## BLAST FROM THE PAST

### **A Decision to Close Our Old Church**

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

At the January 1918 meeting of the Trustees, a thorough discussion on the future of the church was held. The consensus of opinion was the Broad Street Methodist Episcopal Church had come face-to-face with the inevitable, that the church would be unable to continue from a financial and numerical standpoint.

An immediate wind-up of the affairs of the church was felt advisable with the proceeds of the sale of the property going to a memorial to Old Broad Street in either South or West Philadelphia.

In 1920, the church and parsonage were sold to the Thrift African Methodist Episcopal Church, but the sale was later cancelled. For a period of time, when the congregation did not have a place to worship, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Bohn opened their home for services.

The main reason for the demise of the church was the migration to the western part of the city. By the years 1920-21, most of the congregation had moved.

In 1922:

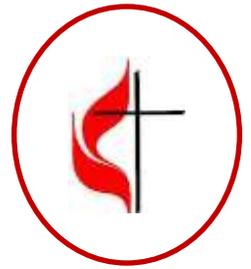
--the Trustees of Broad Street Methodist Episcopal Church, voted to continue the church charter either by annulment or by obtaining a new charter.

--to appoint a committee to act in the relocation of the church to Drexel Hill and to present to the board plans, estimates and any other features necessary to the execution of a building suitable for worship.

--A total of seven building lots were purchased in Drexel Hill at Burmont Road and Bliss Avenue, costing a total of \$7,800.

--Due to the inability of the Thrift African Church to pay for the sale of the Broad Street Methodist Episcopal building, the church was finally sold to Charles Kahn, a center city realtor, for \$50,000. Of that, \$45,000 was put into a building fund; \$5,000 was donated to the (ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW)

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## A Decision to Close

(ARTICLE CONTINUES)

Methodist Hospital. The pews were donated to Tindley Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia and the other furniture, fixtures, organ and equipment was disposed of.

In 1923:

--After meeting in various locations in West Philadelphia, the members of Old Broad Street Methodist Church returned to that building for a Palm Sunday Communion Service and then closed its doors for the final time. (Ed. Note: It is not known when the church was demolished, but in 1985, a service station existed on the spot.)

## IN THE COMMUNITY



### FOOD BANK

#### **Frosty Wind May Blow**

January can certainly bring many cold nights that are colder still for needy families in our area who are trying to make ends meet this winter. This month's food bank requests ask us to imagine the comfort of a warm drink at the end of a dreary day. Please bring canned and boxed nonperishable foods such as:

hot chocolate mix  
soup  
tuna  
dried beans  
dried milk  
pasta

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."*



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

## Delegates offer proposal for church unity



Delegates pause for prayer at the 2019 special General Conference in St. Louis.

File photo by Kathleen Barry, UM News.

General Conference delegates and other United Methodists from the central conferences — church regions in Africa, Europe and the Philippines — released Dec. 19 what they are calling “A Christmas Covenant: Our Gift of Hope” as a way for the church to stay together, writes Heather Hahn for [UM News](#).

The covenant deplors “calls to dissolve or dismember The United Methodist Church, to liquidate its assets and distribute them to the highest bidder.”

“Such plans are harmful to the Body of Christ through whom people of faith seek to connect and live in gracious relationships,” the covenant continues.

Instead, the covenant proposes the following actions:

- Suspension of all actions furthering any dissolution or separation plans and liquidation and distribution of the assets of The United Methodist Church.
- Formation of a U.S. regional conference.
- Establishment of legislative equality for central conferences and U.S. jurisdictions.

Read more about the proposal [here](#).

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## AROUND THE WORLD

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



Jesús,

A migrant from Michoacán state in Western Mexico, tries to shield his 1-year-old daughter, Kataleya, from a cold drizzle falling at the tent encampment where they are living at the foot of the Paso del Norte Bridge in Juárez, Mexico.

## Summit leads United Methodists to heart of border woes

Members of the United Methodist Immigration Task Force — hailing from around the U.S. and Mexico — visited migrants in November living on a small street near the Paso del Norte International Bridge, which connects Juárez with El Paso, writes Kathy L. Gilbert for [UM News](#).

The visit was part of a three-day Immigration Summit held in El Paso, Texas; Las Cruces, New Mexico; and Juárez, Mexico.

The group walked to the bridge after leaving a nearby migration processing facility in Juárez. United Methodists volunteer their time at the center to feed and bring some relief to migrants suffering from the unrelenting waiting and worrying as they seek asylum.

Read more about Methodist efforts at the U.S.-Mexican border [here](#).



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## JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 Breakfast Devotion, 9 a.m., Choir rehearsal, 7:30pm	3	4
5 EPIPHANY	6 BOY SCOUTS, 7	7 BIBLE STUDY 9:30-11 a.m., Pastor's Study NURSERY SCHOOL STARTS	8 CUB SCOUTS, 7 p.m. SPR 7 p.m.	9 Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary	10	11
12	13 BOY SCOUTS, 7 AD COUNCIL, 7pm Bohn Parlor	14 BIBLE STUDY 9:30-11 a.m., Pastor's Study	15 CUB SCOUTS, 7 p.m.	16 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary	17	18
19	20 BOY SCOUTS, 7 p.m. MLK Day	21 BIBLE STUDY, 9:30 a.m.	22 CUB SCOUTS, 7 p.m.	23 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary	24	25 1
26	27 BOY SCOUTS, 7 p.m.	28 BIBLE STUDY, 9:30 a.m. TRUSTEES 7 p.m.	29 CUB SCOUTS, 7 p.m.	30 Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary	31	

