

Dranesville UMC Newsletter

April 2025

The Church as the Resurrected Presence of Christ Today

Easter is more than just a day of celebration—it's a call to live out the reality of the resurrection every single day. As believers, we're not simply commemorating a historical event; we're proclaiming the living presence of Jesus Christ in the world through His church. That's us. We're His hands and feet, His voice, His heart, and His love actively at work today.

The Bible reminds us of our role as witnesses to the resurrection. Acts 1:8 makes it clear: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." This call wasn't just for the disciples 2,000 years ago; it's a mission for every single one of us as the body of Christ. Together, we carry the good news that Jesus is alive, bringing hope and renewal to every corner of our communities.

Being witnesses begins with gathering as a community. The writer of Hebrews underscores the importance of meeting together regularly, urging us to encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24-25). There's something uniquely powerful about being surrounded by fellow believers, lifting our voices together to praise the God who conquered

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**Come worship with us
on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
or virtually via Zoom**

**Coffee hour following
worship via Zoom or live**

**Adult Sunday School
at 9:00 a.m.**

*If you would like to join,
please contact us at
office@dranesvilleumc.org.*



Join us as we celebrate EASTER!

April 13th	10:30 am Palm Sunday
April 17th	7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service
April 18th	Good Friday – 8am-6pm Open for Prayer
April 20th	7:00 am Easter Morning Service 10:30 am Easter Traditional Service

The Church as the Resurrected Presence of Christ Today (continued)

death. When we gather—whether it’s on Easter Sunday or any other time—we aren’t just continuing a tradition; we’re experiencing the very presence of Christ among us.

Think about how the early Christians gathered after the resurrection. They shared meals, supported each other, and reflected the love of the risen Lord (Acts 2:42-47). In our time, we can do the same—whether through church services, small groups, or spontaneous acts of hospitality. These moments are tangible expressions of Christ’s love, both within our community and beyond.

Recently, we worked through the sermon series Healing, based on Francis MacNutt’s book. One of the action points was the practice of prayer through the laying on of hands. Because this practice matters deeply to me, I wondered how the message resonated with you all. On one Sunday, I prayed for two people. As I placed my hands on the first person and closed my eyes, I felt others joining in, laying their hands as well. When I opened my eyes, I was thrilled to see this shared act of prayer. Thank you. Healing isn’t reserved for rare, extraordinary moments—it’s woven into the life of the church as we embody the presence of Christ in the world. The laying on of hands is more than just a ritual; it’s a powerful reminder of how we care for one another and reveal God’s love to the world.

As many of you know, our beloved accompanist Kim is moving on. We’re deeply grateful for the time she and Sam shared with us. Her inspiring music lifted our spirits and echoed the truth of Christ’s resurrection with every note. Kim and Sam’s warm smiles and loving presence have been a living testimony of the risen Christ. We’ll miss them dearly, but we’re confident that their music and their lives will continue to bear witness to Christ in their next congregation. Blessings to both Kim and Sam.



As we embrace this Easter season, let’s remember that we’re not only celebrating the resurrection—we’re living it. Every day, as the hands and feet of Jesus, we carry His presence into the world, step by step. Let’s walk this journey together, as witnesses of Christ’s living presence on earth.

Pastor Keith

CHILDREN’S MOMENT MARCH 23RD!

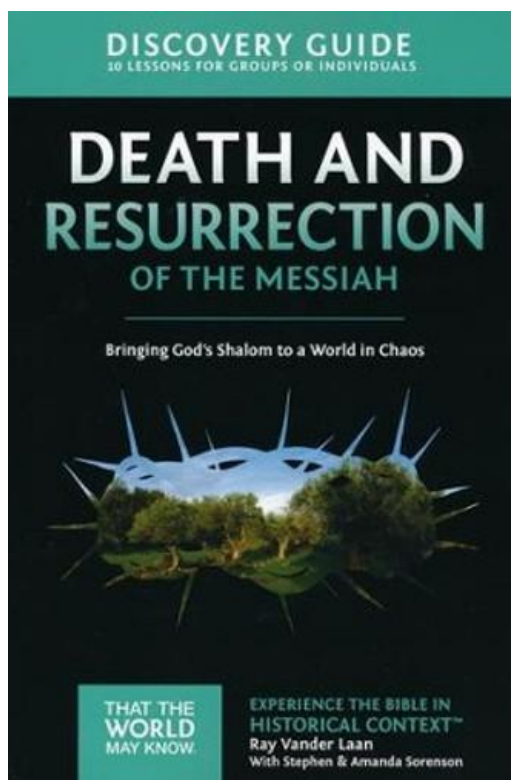
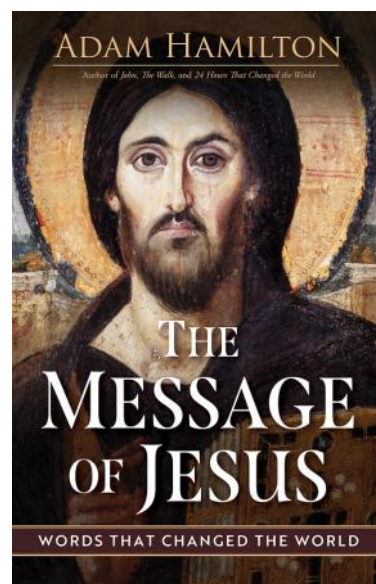


Tuesday and Thursday Bible Study

The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World

More than 3 billion people claim to follow Jesus. But aside from a few verses, how many actually know what he taught? In fact, much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said.

In this six-week study, pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. The book will explore Jesus's preaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the "I am" sayings in John, and more. Jesus's message is not only life-changing, but world-changing. Join Adam Hamilton in studying *The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World*.



Adult Sunday School

Death & Resurrection of the Messiah

by Ray Vander Laan:

Teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan brings together history, culture, and geography to illuminate the Gospels and teaches how confronting evil can be loudly proclaiming the name of Jesus or quietly caring for someone in need.

Filmed on location in Israel and throughout the Middle East, this series is an adventure in biblical learning. You will discover why Jesus turned the world upside down with his compelling call to follow him.

Join us in the library or on Zoom at 9:00 for this ten-week series starting Sunday February 23, 2025.

Every Week Join Us In Study and Prayer: [Dranesvilleumc.org/connect](https://dranesvilleumc.org/connect)

Prayer group is meeting virtually via Zoom, Tuesdays at 8:00 am [Zoom link here.](#)

Bible Study: Join anytime.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study: 7 pm Zoom info: [Zoom link for Tues Evening Bible Study](#)

Thursday Morning Bible Study: 10 am Zoom Info: [Zoom link for Thurs Morning Bible Study](#)

Worship & Fellowship



EVERGREEN
Lunch Group

Lunch with the Evergreen Group:

April 13th at 12:00 pm in Sterling

at The Bungalow Lakehouse Restaurant.

Please see Pete Hause for details
and to RSVP or call 703-430-7166.



College Connections

We will pack our last care package of the year on **April 6th**. We already have popcorn, gummies and smarties left over from previous packings. I am looking for donations of **Easter themed chocolates** to round out the goodies our students will receive. Thank you for serving in this ministry all year. You are a blessing to me, but especially to the students.

Linda



College Connections is calling all graduates. Let Linda Strahan (linda.g.strahan@gmail.com) know if you have a high school, college or grad-school graduate receiving their degree this spring.

Graduation Sunday will be on June 8th.



DUMC Goes Bowling!

June 22-27

Mission Trip

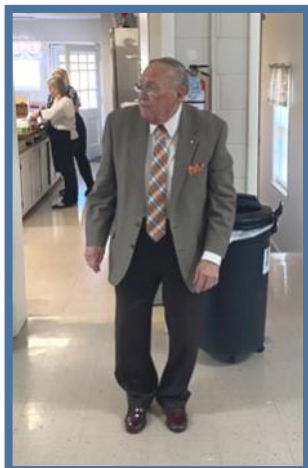
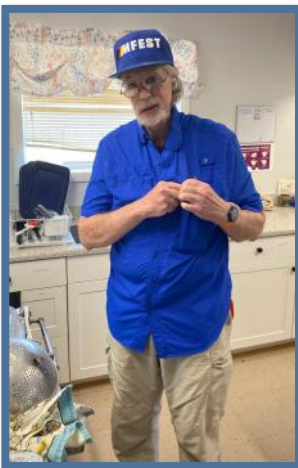
DUMC Hurricane Helene Mission Trip - June 22-27 2025 Update: A date has been settled! Thank you all who have noted their interest in being part of *Habitat for Humanity's* hurricane recovery efforts. We also have volunteers interested in working with *Bounty and Soul*, a food program similar to LINK.

If you have not expressed interest but are interested in participating, please let Beth Hitchings (layleader@dranesvilleumc.org or dghitchings@verizon.net) know as soon as possible. We are finalizing accommodations and also are needing to size up costs, sign-up drivers, plan meals, etc.





Mission Brunch and Farewell to Sam & Kim!



NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH GRASS MOWING

Spring is around the corner, and with it comes the need to mow the grass on the church grounds. By using volunteers to cut the grass, we are saving the church over \$20,000 annually. Over the years the church has acquired all the equipment needed to maintain the 5 acres of grass that DUMC has.

We have a zero-turn riding mower, and a 56-inch walk behind power mower. Both are professional grade equipment that professional landscapers use. We also have a battery powered string trimmer, a small power lawn mower, and various hand tools. We will schedule training sessions to teach you how to use the equipment.

Our goal is to have at least 3 teams of 3-4 individuals, that way you would only mow every 3 weeks. We already have individuals that will mow the Rt. 7 hill, the parsonage, and the drainage pond on Sugarland Rd every week. We will work the schedule around your vacation dates. Our biggest need are individuals willing to do the string trimming and the small hand mower.

If you are interested, please contact V.J. Meleski at vjmeleski2@gmail.com or 703/994-6075 (cell phone).





Happy Easter

Order Hydrangeas Here



Order Tulips Here



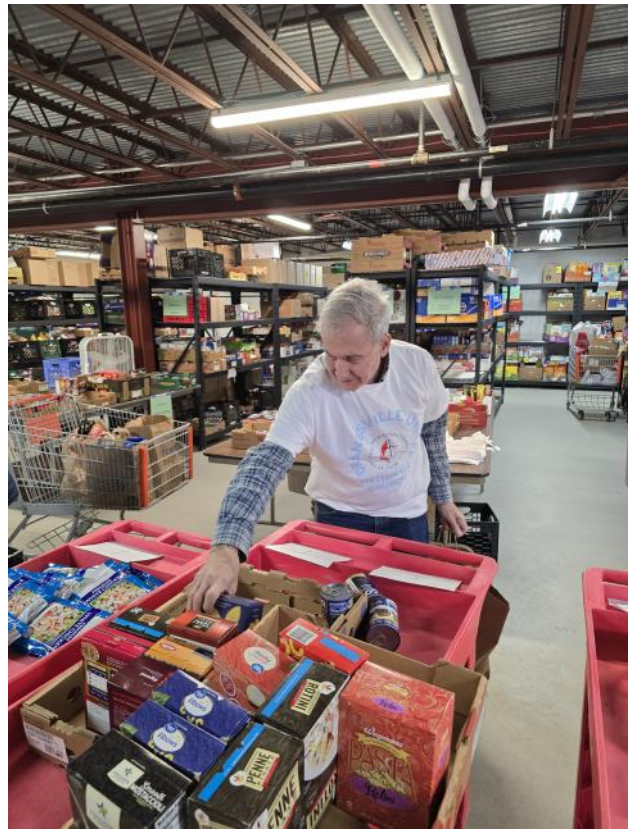
Purchase by **April 6th** in thanksgiving, in honor, or in memory of a loved one to include in the Easter Bulletin. Flowers will be placed in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday.



March Mobile Food Pantry

Register online for the latest updates. Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (light rain or shine) from 9:30 am – 12 pm (or until the food runs out) in the rear parking lot at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church. Join Team Dranesville and wear your Dranesville UMC T-shirts while packing food for those in need.

Next chance for us to help: April 8th!





\$465 in Grocery Gift Cards collected

for LINK in March!!!

Next EVEN 4 OTHERS Collection April 27th



Dranesville

United Methodist Church

“Making disciples of Jesus Christ by feeding body, mind and soul.”

April

- 6 Holy Communion
- 8 Mobile Food Pantry
- 13 Palm Sunday
Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 17 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service
- 18 Good Friday – 8am-6pm Open for Prayer
- 20 7 AM Easter Morning Service
10:30 am Easter Traditional Service
- 27 Even 4 Others Collection

GIVE Online!

May

- 4 Holy Communion
- 11 Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 13 Mobile Food Pantry
- 25 Grocery Card Collection



Every Week Join Us In Study and Prayer:

Dranesvilleumc.org/connect

- ◆ Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School in person and via Zoom
- ◆ Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. Prayer group is meeting virtually via Zoom
- ◆ Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Bible Study is held via Zoom

To get connected to any of the virtual meetings, please contact the church office by e-mailing office@dranesvilleumc.org or leave a message at 703-430-3137 anytime.

Office hours: Tuesday—Friday 8:30 am—12:30 pm