

Dranesville UMC Newsletter

March 2026

Guide for Your Lenten Journey

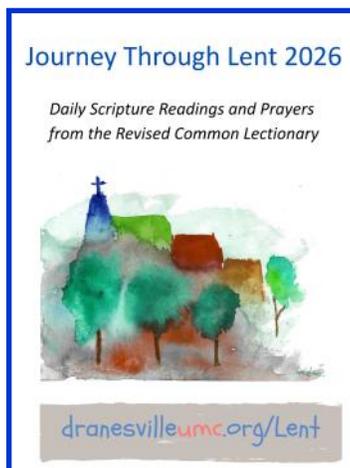
As we enter this holy season of Lent, I am excited to share something our staff has put together just for you. We have created a Lenten devotional guide designed to walk alongside you through these forty days of reflection, prayer, and preparation. My hope is that this little booklet becomes a faithful companion as you journey toward Easter.

We built the devotional around the Revised Common Lectionary passages for Lent, placing one scripture reading for each day of the season. On days where the lectionary does not have a passage, we carefully selected prayers and poems to fill that space with something meaningful and nourishing for your spirit. Every page invites you to slow down, sit with God's Word, and open your heart to what the Spirit might be saying to you during this season.

Using the devotional is simple. Each day, find a quiet moment, read the passage or prayer for that day, and let it settle in your heart. You might journal a thought, carry a word or phrase with you through the day, or simply sit in silence after reading. There is no wrong way to use it, and the goal is simply to keep you connected to God and to the larger story of redemption we celebrate together as a church.

We have both printed copies and electronic versions available for you. Pick up a hard copy in the church foyer, or go to the link <https://dranesvilleumc.org/Lent/> and download a copy. Please take one for yourself, and feel free to share one with a neighbor, friend, or family member who might welcome it. I am praying that this devotional blesses your Lenten journey and draws you ever closer to the heart of Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor Keith



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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.*

Sharing Faith at Arbor Terrace

One of the quiet joys of ministry is showing up where people are, and that is exactly what I get to do at Arbor Terrace retirement community. Two of our own beloved members, Dottie and Bill Bliven, live there, and they invited me to come and share a word with their neighbors. Every second Sunday of the month, I gather with a small group of residents, usually seven to ten people, for a time of worship and encouragement. It is a sweet and meaningful hour, and I look forward to it every month.

These residents welcome us warmly, and they are enthusiastic about connection, scripture, and music. The gatherings are informal and intimate, which makes them feel special in their own way. Dottie leads the worship and praise, and I share a brief message from God's Word. Together we spend time in the presence of the Lord. What strikes me most is how much this simple act of showing up means to the people who live there.

That is why I am inviting you to come alongside me. If you feel called to share a personal testimony or even bring a short sermon, I would love for you to share with them on one of these Sundays. If music is your gift, please consider offering a song, playing an instrument, or leading the group in a few familiar hymns. You do not need to be a professional or have everything polished. You just need a willing heart and a desire to bless others.

If you are interested in joining me at Arbor Terrace, please reach out to me. This is a beautiful opportunity to extend the love and ministry of our church into the lives of people who are beyond the walls of the church.

I believe God will bless you just as much as you bless them.

Pastor Keith



IT'S TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS

ALL ORDERS DUE BY: MARCH 22ND

Flowers will be placed in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. You can purchase in thanksgiving, in honor, or in memory of a loved one to be included in the Easter Bulletin. We are offering tulips (6" pots) for 14.00 each. Hydrangeas (2-3 qt pot) for \$26.00 each. Color will be based on availability. Please fill in the order form below, attach your check made payable to DUMC, note in memo section (Easter flowers). OR: Order online here:

bit.ly/DUMC_EasterFlowers



Bible Study

Tuesday and Thursday Bible Study

[Dranesvilleumc.org/connect](https://dranesvilleumc.org/connect)

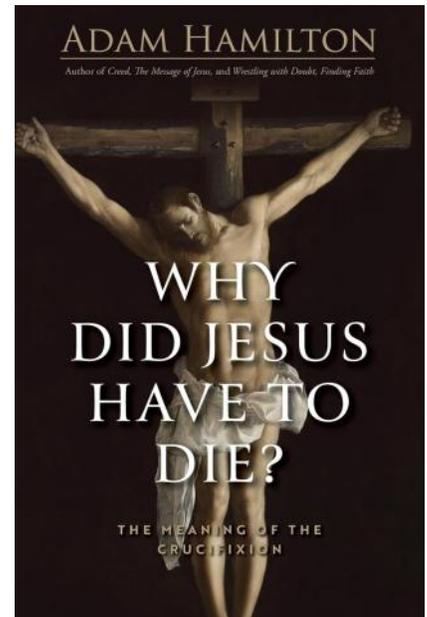
Tuesday Evening: 7pm OR Thursday Morning: 10am

Why Did Jesus Have To Die?

When words fall short, the cross still speaks.

Despite the crucifixion's central place in Christian faith, the New Testament offers few clear answers about how Jesus' death saves, or why, exactly, he had to die. The New Testament writers use a host of metaphors—ransom, sacrifice, reconciliation, victory—but never explain exactly how it works or why it had to happen this way.

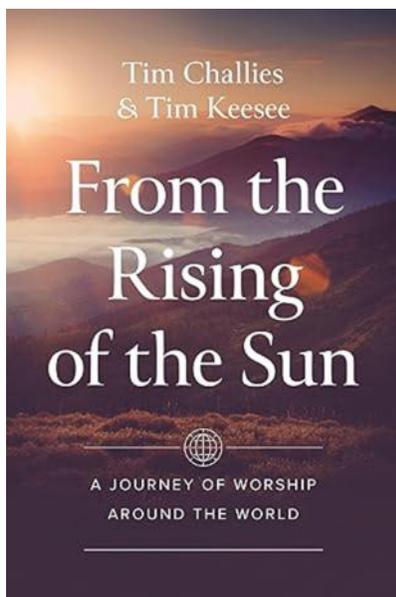
What if that's because we've been asking the wrong question? What if the cross isn't a transaction to be explained, but a living Word from God meant to transform who we are and how we live?



Adult Sunday School

From the Rising of the Sun

Tim Challies & Tim Keese



From the Rising of the Sun takes you on an unforgettable journey, showcasing how believers from all corners of the earth praise God in ways that are consistent with Scripture but faithful to the local language, customs, and culture.

Whether you're passionate about global missions, fascinated by cultural diversity, or simply looking to deepen your understanding of worship, *From the Rising of the Sun* will inspire and uplift you.

Join us in the library or on Zoom at 9:00 for this twelve-week series starting Sunday January 05, 2026.

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](#)

Fellowship

Lunch with the Evergreen Group:



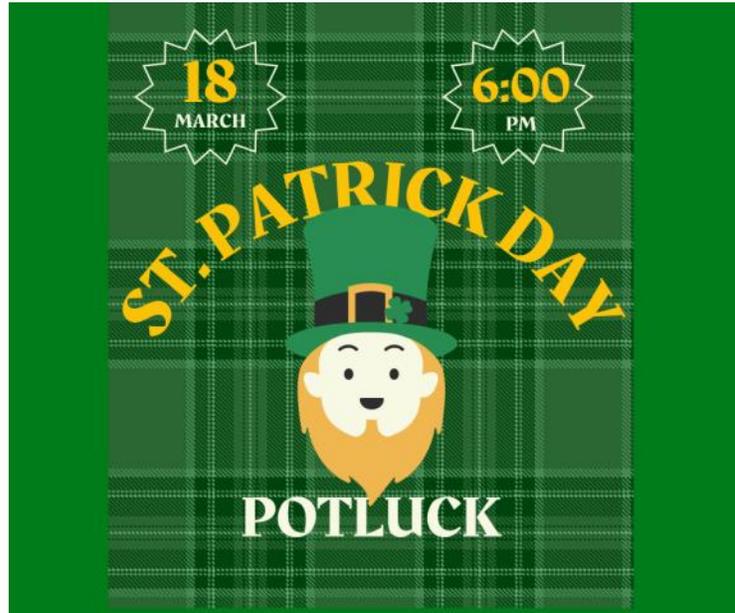
February 8th at 12:00 pm in Sterling
at The Bungalow Lakehouse Restaurant.

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



Community Pot Luck Dinners

March 18th
"St Patrick's Day"
Thanks, Donna



DUMC
Potluck



"Comfort
Food" - and

New Ministries



Puzzle Ministry:

Dranesville has a number of puzzle fans and Carol suggested we “share” completed puzzles within the DUMC community. A table in the Fellowship Hall has several puzzles to Take One or Share One. Adult, children, 1000+ pieces, etc. are welcome.

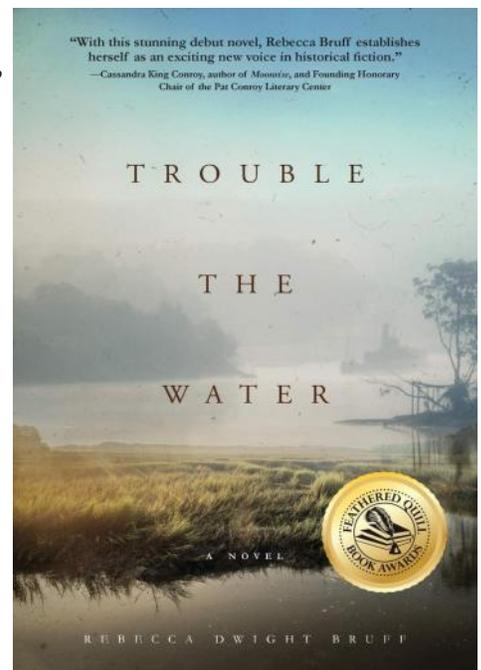
DUMC Book Club—March 11th

Rebecca Bruff, the author of *Trouble the Water*, has agreed to join our Book Group discussion via Zoom on March 11th. We plan to meet on Zoom and at the Church Library at 7:00pm. Please let Beth Hitchings know if you plan to participate on Zoom. layleader@dranesvilleumc.org.

The Book Group welcomed several new attendees (one and all are welcome!) to discuss *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel. A lively discussion alongside Janet’s homemade cookies made for a great evening.

The Group will meet on March 11th at 7:00pm to discuss ***Trouble the Water* by Rebecca Dwight Bruff** (available in the library, used or new, audiobook, etc.) Inspired by a true story, *Trouble the Water* is about risking everything for freedom. Born a slave, Robert Smalls commandeered a Confederate arms ship from Charleston harbor, and with the woman he loved and a small crew of other slaves, delivered it to the Union Navy. After the war ended Smalls was able to purchase the house in which he and his mother had been enslaved, and he became one of America’s first black legislators. His courage, thirst for knowledge, and compassion ultimately changed the lives of untold others, including making South Carolina the first state to legislate public education for all.

From his illiterate childhood to his thrilling escape to freedom, from his work to make South Carolina the first state to guarantee public education, to his final days on the porch of his family home — *Trouble the Water* will thrill history lovers, biographical fiction fans, and book group members who appreciate exciting fiction based on the lives of real people.



Mobile Food Pantry: Next: March 11th

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.



THANK YOU DRANESVILLE CONGREGATION!

383 ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY LINK COLLECTION

\$395.00 IN GIFT CARDS FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY



**GROCERY GIFT CARD
COLLECTION**

ON MARCH 22nd!!

This month please donate grocery gift cards from your favorite grocery store to give to families in need. Buy Grocery store cards \$25 or under so that LINK can include them in the grocery bags that are delivered to the families. Contribute by Sept 27th. To write a check, make the check payable to "Dranesville UMC" with "LINK"



Dranesville

United Methodist Church

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

March

- 1 Holy Communion
- 8 Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 10 Mobile Food Pantry
- 18 Wednesday Community St Patrick’s Day Potluck
- 22 Grocery Gift Card Collection
Flower Orders Due
Church Council Meeting after worship
- 29 Palm Sunday Service

GIVE Online!



April

- 2 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm
- 3 Good Friday – 8am-6pm Open for Prayer
- 5 7 AM Easter Morning Service
10:30 am Easter Traditional Service
- 8 Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 14 Mobile Food Pantry
- 22 Wednesday Community Dinner
- 26 Even 4 Others 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