

Dranesville UMC Newsletter

May 2026

Our Partners in Ministry

If you walk through most church buildings during the week, you'll notice something. A lot of space. A lot of quiet. Rooms waiting.

Across the country, congregations are expanding how their space is used. Many have opened their doors to recovery groups. Others are hosting childcare programs, community meetings, or local nonprofits. Some have even created coffeehouse-style spaces where people can come in, sit down, and just be—no pressure, no expectations.

In one story I read, a church took a building that had fallen into disrepair and partnered with others to bring it back to life. Not just for Sunday worship, but for the whole neighborhood. The vision wasn't to protect the space. It was to release it.

Most of us are not here when our partners like AART, the Scouts and the Girl Scouts use our building. Our building is being used well throughout the week, by people and groups who are investing in others, building relationships, and creating spaces where life is happening in real ways.

So this is just a word of thanks.

Thank you for being the kind of church that makes room.

Thank you for sharing space with grace and generosity.

Thank you for trusting that God can work through things we don't always see up close.



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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.*

Our Partners in Ministry (continued)

Groups like the AART, Scouts, Gabriel Homes, Venture Crew and Girl Scouts are part of that story here. The Dead Robots Society will be here after we work out the permit situation with the county. Also we're partnered with LINK, the Closet, and Habitat. They don't meet here but they're vital in the communities they serve. We recognize that they reach people we can't. They help people in their needs. We're grateful to partner with them for community development.

Last month, led by Beth Hitchings and Janet Sansalone along with a troop of volunteers hosted a brunch fundraiser. Thank you Beth, Janet and volunteers!! Also thanks to the congregation for your generous donations!!

After some consideration, it was decided that we use these gifts to distribute \$285 to each of our partners.

I'm so grateful to be part of a loving and generous community of God. It's an honor to partner with you to share the love and grace of Jesus with our neighbors.

Blessings, Pastor Keith



Even though the plates have been cleared
and the Palm Sunday brunch is behind us,
the spirit of giving continues!

If you were moved by the fellowship last Sunday and would like to further support the vital work we do, you can still contribute to the **various missions of Dranesville UMC**. Your generosity fuels our community outreach and helps us be a light for those in need, both locally and globally.

HOW TO GIVE

- Online:** Visit our website's giving portal and select "Missions" from the drop-down menu.
- By Mail:** Send a check to the church office with "Missions" written in the memo line.
- In Person:** Drop your donation in the offering plate during this Sunday's service.

Thank you for your continued heart for service and for making our Palm Sunday celebration so meaningful!



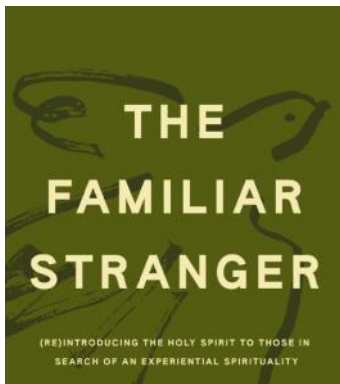
Bible Study

Tuesday and Thursday Bible Study

Dranesvilleumc.org/connect

Tuesday Evening: 7pm OR Thursday Morning: 10am

We'll be studying the book of Nahum as a counterpoint to the book of Jonah. Abraham Heschel's concept of divine pathos — that the prophets are not just mouthpieces of theological ideas but men seized by God's own emotional engagement with human suffering — frames Nahum not as cold jurisprudence but as God's own anguish and anger breaking through. Heschel suggests the prophet participates in God's feeling toward the oppressor.



Adult Sunday School

The Familiar Stranger by Tyler Staton

In *The Familiar Stranger*, Tyler Staton reintroduces this oft-neglected Person of the Trinity, tracing the story of the Holy Spirit as it unfolds throughout the Bible, and inviting believers to close the gap between what Scripture reveals about the Holy Spirit and their lived experience.

Join us in the library or on Zoom at 9:00 for this six-week series starting Sunday April 12, 2026.

Fellowship



EVERGREEN
Lunch Group

Lunch with the Evergreen Group:

May 17th at 12:00 pm in Sterling
at The Bungalow Lakehouse Restaurant.
The third week this month!

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



Palm Sunday & Brunch

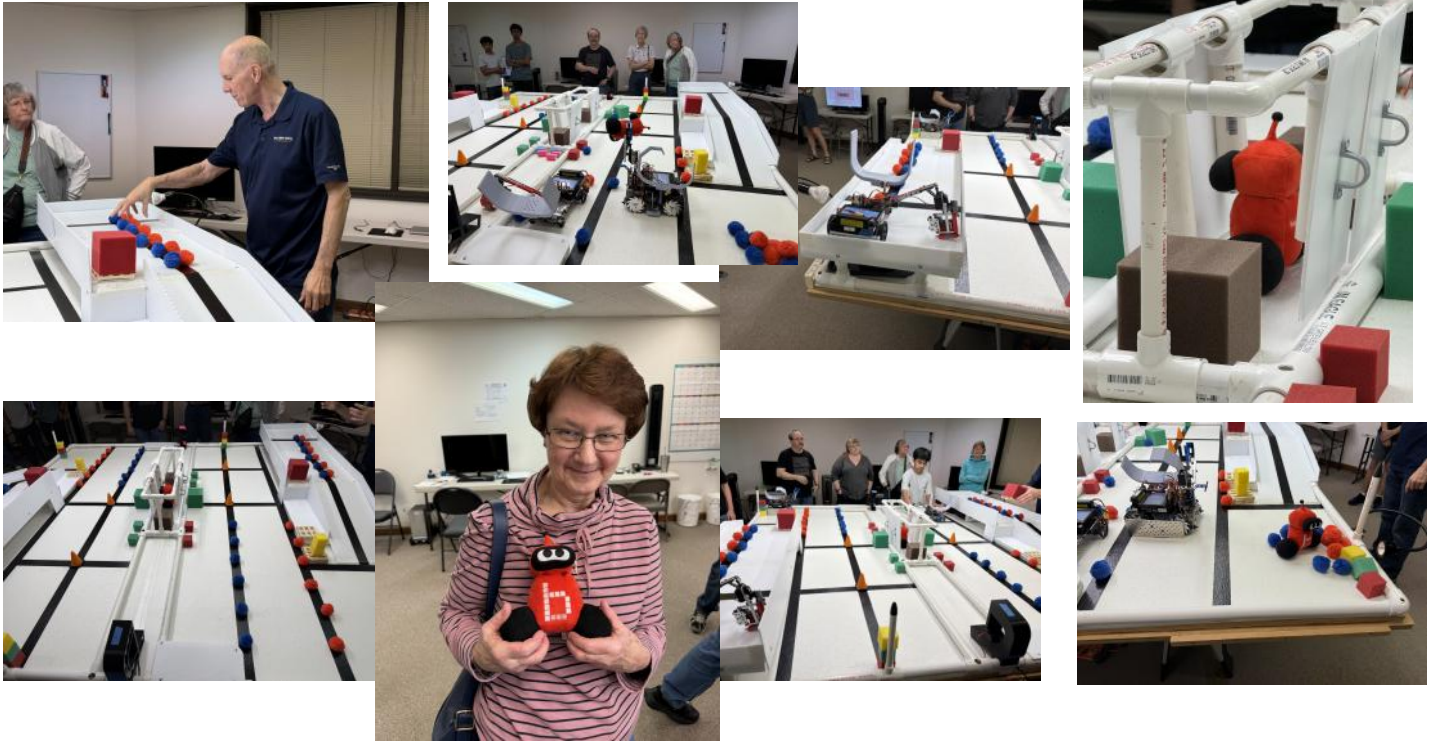




I Love My Church Day



Dead Robots Society





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 13-16

8:30AM-12:00PM

**Join the Fun at
Dranesville UMC
Vacation Bible School!**

**1089 Liberty Meeting Ct
Herndon VA 20170**

A week filled with friends
and fun activities.
Lessons and activities for
art, music and technology.
Classes divided by age
group. Space limited so
register soon.



**ages 3-9
\$50/child**

Registration begins March 22nd:

dranesvilleumc.org/vbs

Community Pot Luck

THIS MONTH: Wednesday Community Dinner is May 20th. The theme will be Memorial Day Cookout



Mobile Food Pantry: Next: May 12th

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.



These are the string bags DUMC has been cutting/knotting full of veggies!



EVEN 4 OTHERS COLLECTION

663 ITEMS DONATED FOR LINK ON
APRIL 26TH!!





College Connections



Graduation Sunday is on June 7th

Calling all graduates! Graduation Sunday will be on June 7th. Let us know if you have a high school, college or grad-school graduate receiving their degree this spring. Graduates will be highlighted in our June newsletter and in the bulletin that Sunday—including a photo! Contact [Linda, strahans@cox.net](mailto:Linda_strahans@cox.net) or the [office](#) if you have any questions.

- Please confirm **ASAP** which of two possible dates a graduate might be able to attend our presentation and brunch. Options are **June 7th or 14th**.
- Please provide information (by the **end of April**) and a graduation photo (by the **end of May**) for the June Newsletter and Bulletin for the church service.

Congratulations on arriving at this joyful milestone! Dranesville is delighted to celebrate with you.

Grace to you,
Linda Strahan College Connections

DUMC Book Club—May 13th

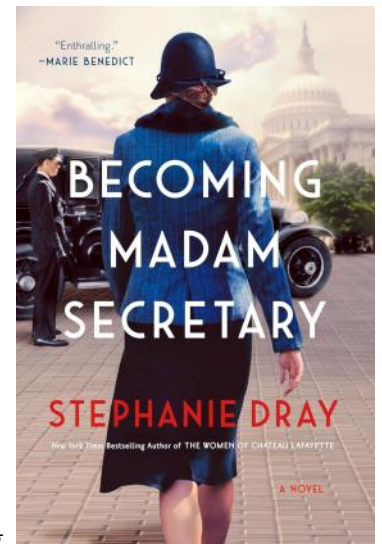
Dear Dranesville Book Group participants (and those who like to read along...):

A big thank you to those who could attend our last gathering and a special shout out to Tanya for the delicious cookies! We had a great discussion (in person and on Zoom) with the author Rebecca Druff, who gave us such charming and informative insights on her historical fiction account of Robert Smalls, a former slave who daringly escaped to freedom in *Trouble the Water*. We learned that Rebecca is an ordained United Methodist minister, which explained why grace was its own character in the book.

We plan to meet on May 13th at 7:00 pm (in the library and on Zoom). We will be reading *Becoming Madam Secretary* by Stephanie Dray (see below). We also plan to read *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi as soon as it becomes more accessible via the public library! Let Beth Hitchings know if you have any questions at layleader@dranesvilleumc.org

Becoming Madam Secretary by Stephanie Dray (Thanks for the recommendation, Jinny!)

The novel follows Frances Perkins from her early years in New York City's Hell's Kitchen to her pivotal role as the first female U.S. cabinet member, Secretary of Labor under Franklin D. Roosevelt. The story blends historical events with fictionalized personal interactions, offering a vivid portrayal of Perkins' determination, intelligence and resilience.





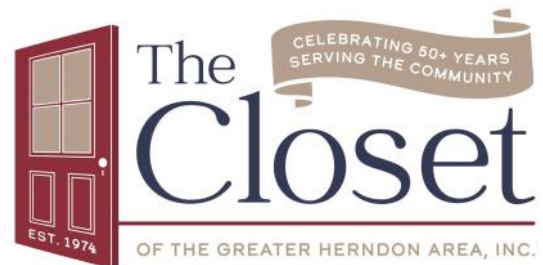
April was a great month in Troop 1018. After welcoming ten new scouts who crossed over from Webelos, we started them out on their first merit badge. Our tradition is to do Fishing Merit Badge for the new scouts each Spring. They learn about fish in Virginia, common fishing knots, and how to clean and cook a fish. The merit badge caps off with a trip to a well stocked lake on private property.

April was also a big month for Troop 1018 as we became a family troop. Scouting America has offered troops the opportunity to include both boys and girls in troops and we made the decision to make this change given wide support from families in the troop. If you know a boy or girl between the ages of 11 and 17 who would like scouting, please have them reach out to us at scoutmaster@troop1018.org.

Bill Malyszka
 Scoutmaster Troop 1018
scoutmaster@troop1018.org
 (571) 241-1061



 **SAVE THESE DATES**



July 18th – Kids Day at The Closet (Lots of toys!)

September 5th – Annual Fashion Show

October (Date TBD) – Everything Christmas Sale

December 12th – WINTER MARKT



Dranesville

United Methodist Church

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

May

- 3 Holy Communion
- 10 Mother’s Day
- 12 Mobile Food Pantry
- 13 Book Club 7pm
- 15 Office Closed
- 17 Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 20 Wednesday Community Dinner 6pm
- 24 Grocery Card Collection for LINK
- 31 Guest Speaker— Chris Allen

GIVE Online!



June

- 7 Holy Communion
Graduation Celebration and Lunch
- 9 Mobile Food Pantry
- 14 Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 17 Wednesday Community Dinner 6pm
- 21 Father’s Day
- 28 Even 4 Others Collection for LINK

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 closed Friday May 1 & May 15
Office hours: Tuesday—Friday 8:30 am—12:30 pm