

Dranesville UMC Newsletter

April 2024

Spring Into April

A Heartfelt Thank You

As we reflect on the Lenten season that has just passed, I am filled with appreciation for the dedication and spirit of service by our church members. Your participation in our services and activities has truly embodied the essence of community and faith. The hours in prayer, the thoughtful organization of events, and the selfless acts of volunteering not only enriched our Lenten journey but also strengthened the bonds within our church family. I was truly blessed through this 40 days Lenten Journey with you.

Many people noticed the similarities between Lent and Ramadan in that both last for 40 days and emphasize fasting. They're both wonderful traditions. I was told that some Christians might not take Lent as seriously as Muslims take Ramadan. I don't doubt that adherents of other religions take their religious duties more seriously than Christians. However, I pray that everyone takes the responsibility and the privilege of loving our neighbors equally or even more seriously than their religious duties. I believe that was the case during our journey at Dranesville. We grew to love God and others more through the forty days of fasting, prayers, contemplation and charity. Thank you!

Embracing Newcomers with Open Hearts

The recent influx of visitors to our church is a testament to the living presence of God drawing souls closer to God's love and



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message	1
Sunday School & Study	3
LINK Mission	4
Happening @ DUMC	5
College Connection	6
Fellowship	7
I Love My Church	8
Easter	9
Camp Highroad	10
The Closet	11
Calendar	12



**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.*

Spring Into April (continued)

grace. It is a blessing to witness your warm welcome to newcomers, and I am confident that this growth is inspired through love. I encourage our community to continue extending a warm welcome to every new face. Take a moment to introduce yourself, share stories, and offer guidance about our church's life and ministries. By fostering genuine connections, we can ensure that every visitor feels a sense of belonging from the moment they step through our doors.

Invitations to Fellowship and Community



Easter Morning Outdoor Worship
By Pete Hause

I invite you to actively reach out to your friends, family, and acquaintances, inviting them to experience the warmth and fellowship of our church. Our Wednesday evening dinners offer a casual and friendly setting that is ideal for first-time guests. Similarly, the Evergreen lunch, held on the second Sunday of each month, provides a wonderful opportunity for newcomers to mingle with our congregation in a relaxed and welcoming environment. These gatherings are perfect occasions for introducing the unchurched to our community and the joy of shared faith.

Creating an Inviting Atmosphere for Fellowship

As we move forward, let us consider how we can enhance our worship services, events, and Bible studies to be more inviting to newcomers. Small changes, such as clear signage or even a brief orientation before services, can go a long way in making someone feel at home. We might also explore incorporating multimedia elements into our services to resonate with a broader audience. By being mindful of the needs and

perspectives of new attendees, we can create an atmosphere that not only welcomes but also engages and inspires all who join us in worship. Through these efforts, let us embody the love and teachings of Christ, creating an environment to nurture and include all who seek spiritual refuge and community.

Sincerely, Pastor Keith

Guest Preacher April 14th: MICHELLE HOLMES CHANEY

Michelle is Director for Leadership and Church Vitality and provides resources and training to walk alongside churches in their ministries as well as coordinates the Next Level Innovations project. She has worked with annual conferences and non-profit boards across the country. Currently she serves on the District Committee on Ministry, the District Leadership Team and the Annual Conference Worship Planning Team.



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](#)

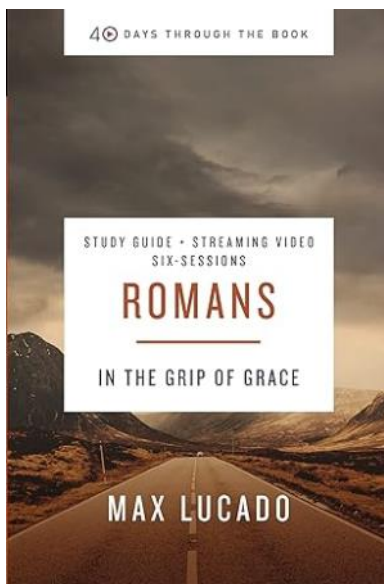
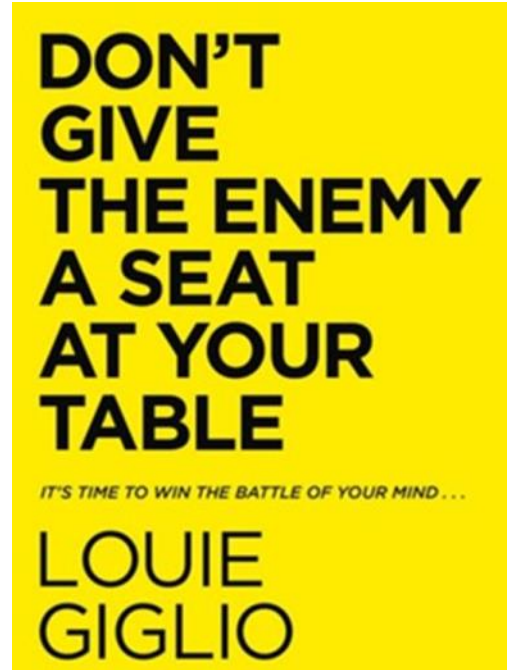
Thursday Morning Bible Study: 10 am Zoom Info: [Zoom link for Thurs Morning Bible Study](#)

Sunday School:

Scripture is clear: the Enemy is a liar who will stop at nothing to tempt you into poor decisions and self-defeating mindsets, making you feel afraid, angry, anxious, or defeated. It is all too easy for Satan to weasel his way into a seat at the table intended for only you and your King. But you can fight back.

Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table outlines the ways to overcome those lies so you can find peace and security in any challenging circumstance or situation. With the same bold, exciting approach to Scripture as employed in *Goliath Must Fall* and his other previous works, pastor Louie Giglio examines Psalm 23 in fresh ways, highlighting verse 5: *"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies."*

Join us in the library or on Zoom at 9:00 for this six-week series starting Sunday March 03, 2024.



Tuesday and Thursday Bible Study:

"Romans: In the Grip of Grace" by Max Lucado. We welcome you into the knowledge and freedom of grace with his exploration of Paul's letter to the Roman church. Throughout the study, you'll explore the book of Romans with Max to gain a deeper understanding of its context and content, focusing on central truths.

EVEN 4 OTHERS

Once again we will have a collection for LINK Against Hunger. Please leave donations in the big wooden box in front of the office before church on Sunday, April 28th. They will be counted and transported to the LINK location after church.



Some of the top needs are Jelly, Dried beans, Canned fruit, Canned corn, peas, carrots, potatoes, Boxed potatoes, Toilet paper, Paper towels, Cleaning products, Toiletry items.

\$700 IN GROCERY CARDS FOR LINK DONATED MARCH !

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Next chance for us to help:

May 14th!

Register online for 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 (46833 Harry Byrd Hwy., Sterling). Join Team Dranesville and wear your Dranesville UMC T-shirts while packing food for those in need.

St Patricks Sunday Fellowship



NEW!! Summer Camp June 24-27
8:30 AM- 12:30 PM

A week filled with friends and fun activities.

Lessons and activities for art, music and technology. Ages 3-9.

We need volunteers to help plan and participate.

Please reach out to Pastor Keith if you can help for the week or even a few days.



Dranesvilleumc.org/DUMC-Summer-Camp



Communion Bread Ministry

Calling for volunteers to help make communion bread.

See Pastor Keith for more information.



Join us for Vacation Bible School!

August 5-9, 2024 (9am–12pm)

Christ the King Lutheran Church
10550 Georgetown Pike
Great Falls, VA 22066



Easter Care Packages Sent!



College Connections welcomes all graduates to participate in Graduation Sunday which is currently being planned for June 9th. I will confirm the date once I have an idea of who is interested in participating, with a view to accommodating the greatest number of students who want to participate.

Graduation Sunday consists of a presentation of gifts to the graduates during the worship service, followed by a lunch reception in the fellowship Hall. There will be a slide show of Graduate photos along with a blurb on their accomplishments and future plans. This information will also be featured in the Newsletter for June.

In the busy swirl of activity before graduation, please remember to let me know if you will participate in graduation Sunday on June 9th. Also, if you plan to participate, please send information for the inscription of your gift, and for the Newsletter and worship slides.

For the Newsletter and slides. I am looking for this:

1. a graduation photo or two
2. Name of your school
3. Name of any awards you have won, or special activities you participated in during your time at college.
4. What your future plans are.

Because of the long trajectory in ordering gifts and getting them inscribed, I would like to know if your graduate would like to participate by **April 1st**. I look forward to confirming participation in this fun event. Congratulations again on this wonderful life event for your family.

Grace to you,

Linda Strahan

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Dinner



EVERGREEN
Lunch Group

Lunch with the Evergreen Group:

April 14th 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.



i ♥ my church

April 6 was I Love My Church day! Windows were washed, pews cleaned, gutters and flower beds tended. 46 bags of mulch were delivered and spread!



A sure sign of spring is the grass turning green and starting to grow! If you would like to join the mowing team (or are willing to have your arm twisted gently!) please contact Laurie Barr. We would like to get enough volunteers for 4 teams of 2-3 people each so a team would mow once a month. We have walking and riding machines (including the awesome zero-turn!).



Happy Easter





Camp Highroad is a Christian camp established in 1949 and located on 620 acres of wooded land. Here, children, teens and adults are encouraged to grow spiritually, mentally and physically. Our mission is to provide a safe and fun environment for campers to enjoy the outdoors, make new friends and build relationships with Christ.

Friends of Camp Highroad,

We are organizing our next volunteer day for **Saturday, May 18th**. The camp will be full of groups that weekend, so we will select projects that will not interfere with those ongoing programs. We welcome groups or individuals for this day of service.

SERVICE DAY, MAY 18th - Camp Highroad will have a volunteer service day on Saturday, May 18th. Please sign up at the link below. We start at 8am and end at 4pm. You can volunteer as an individual or bring a group friends and colleagues. All skill levels are needed, there is always something that needs to get done.

REGISTER: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15Ewv2JzuVoRYU-QRhwxvgunaKLi3eTS6hO1_y_KeX2s/edit

CAMP HIGHROAD – www.camphighroad.org We still have summer camp open spots, have availability for programs and lodging throughout the Spring. If you know anyone interested in supporting our work at Camp Highroad, please have them reach out directly.

Greg Early
Board Member at Camp Highroad
gregory.early@outlook.com
703-967-1431

SOLAR ECLIPSE GOES LOCAAL!

THANKS TO THE BARR'S FOR THESE AWESOME PICTURES!





You're Invited to The Closet's Summer Fashion Show!



Get ready to witness the magic of sustainable style at our Summer Fashion Show! Join us for an exciting showcase of unique and affordable fashion finds that will make you rethink your summer wardrobe.

Date: June 22, 2024

Time: 6:00 PM onwards

Location: 779 Center St Herndon, VA 20170

Discover the thrill of thrifting as we unveil a curated collection of pre-loved gems, from vintage classics to contemporary trends. Experience the joy of seeing one-of-a-kind pieces that express individuality, all while making a positive impact on the environment.

Be inspired by creative styling ideas and learn how to mix and match thrifted treasures to create stylish ensembles for any occasion. Whether you're a seasoned thrift shopper or new to the thrifting scene, this event promises something special for everyone.

Join us for an evening of fashion, fun, and sustainable shopping! Bring your friends and embrace the thrill of the hunt as we celebrate the beauty of thrifted fashion together.

Tickets go on sale - May 1, 2024!

Ticket prices are \$10.

Come dressed in your favorite thrifted outfit and let's make memories while supporting a great cause! We can't wait to see you there!

Warm regards,
Tempestt W. Harmon, Store Manager & Event Organizer
The Closet
theclosetinc@verizon.net



Are you looking for ways to give back to the Community? Do you want to make new friends? Volunteer support is essential to the successful realization of the Closet's mission. While The Closet has a small paid staff, The Closet relies heavily on volunteers to support many of our efforts.

Opportunities exist for individuals, youth groups, adult groups from area schools, religious congregations, civic organizations, and businesses.

Volunteer opportunities are available from 10:00AM – 4:00PM Monday-Saturday.

To volunteer you can:

- Contact the Store Manager by email at theclosetinc@verizon.net.
- OR Please take a look at their website to volunteer.

<http://theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/volunteer/>



Dranesville

United Methodist Church

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

April

- 7 Holy Communion
- 9 Mobile Food Pantry
- 10 Wednesday Night Dinner with Fairfax County Officer Wyatt
- 14 Guest Pastor: Rev. Michelle Chaney
- Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 28 Even 4 Others collection for LINK families

May

- 5 Holy Communion
- Church Council 11:45 am
- 14 Mobile Food Pantry
- 19 Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 22 Wednesday Night Dinner with Brad Duty
- 26 Grocery Card collection for LINK

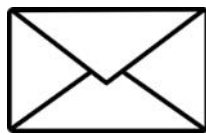
GIVE Online!



FOUR WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE



BY MAIL



OFFERING



STOCK GIFT

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.

Office Closed May 10th