

Dranesville UMC Newsletter

March 2025

Behold the Beauty of the Lord

Gershom Scholem, a leading scholar of Jewish mysticism, explored the idea of encountering "nothingness" or a "void" when trying to understand God. He maintained that there's a great gap between humanity and the divine. That gap was known as "nothingness" or a "void." Despite the enormous "void" between God and humanity, mystics sought to know God. Scholem understood mystics' devotion to this paradox of knowing the unknowable God as a spiritual journey into the profound mystery of the Divine. This process invites us to a deeper, more contemplative relationship with God.

Moreover, he remarks, in our modern world, our continued devotion to God is "pious atheism" because, in our modern scientific worldview, God is unseen and not provable. However, we continue to believe even though there is no scientific proof. We testify to God's presence through His absence. We acknowledge God as a mystery. Therefore, we accept this gap and continue our journey into the paradox of knowing the unknowable.

The Lenten season invites us into this paradox. We acknowledge this absence, the loss and invisibility of our Maker. We also acknowledge the "void" that separates us in our modern scientific world from the

mysterious and divine domain of God. But we know Easter resurrection is the sign that affirms the presence of God in this "nothingness." Christ is the proof of God's presence within the divine mystery.



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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.*

Behold the Beauty of the Lord (continued)

Psalm 27 (King James Version) declares

27 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

3 Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

When the psalmist was pressed and in trouble, s/he was confident in “this.” What is “this”?

4 One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.

The psalmist has taken a spiritual journey to seek the hidden and invisible God. The psalmist wants to behold the beauty of the Lord! Perhaps in his/her way, the psalmist went through a Lenten practice of seeking God in the void.

What happens when someone seeks the invisible and hidden God?

5 For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock.

Apostle Paul reflects the above theology when writing to the church in Colossae.

Colossians 3:1-3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Enter into this gap, the unknown, the void, this nothingness in knowing Christ and the mystery of God. You will enter into the secret of His tabernacle to dwell with Him.

There’s so much going on in our world today. During Lent, let’s enter this secret chamber with Christ through prayer, devotion, Bible reading and study, worship, fellowship and contemplation on the Word. We’re hidden from the world but are fully alive and visible to God. With much hope,

Pastor Keith



Join us as we celebrate the season of Lent

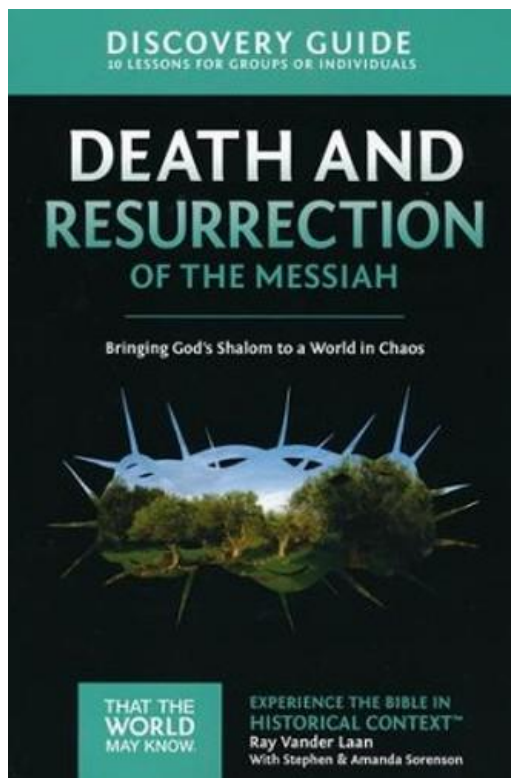
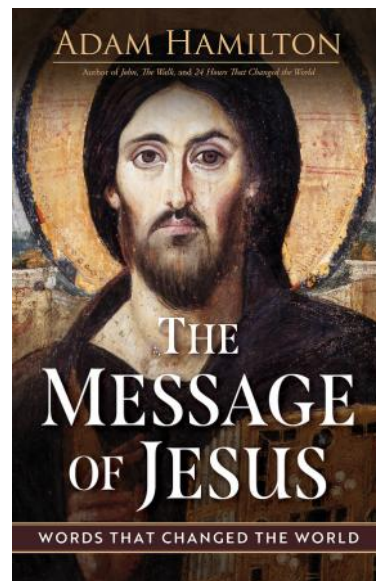
March 5th	7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
April 13th	Palm Sunday
April 17th	7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service
April 18th	Good Friday – 8am-6pm Open for Prayer

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:

March 9th 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.

DUMC Listening Sessions: Optimizing our Church Grounds

As a follow-up to October's Town Hall meeting on DUMC property use, Beth Hitchings, DUMC's lay leader, will be conducting "Listening Sessions" with the congregation, kicking off in 2025. The intent of these sessions is to gather more feedback on the ideas/issues related to property use and the Evaluation Rubric. In addition, she welcomes any interest in helping with this initiative.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the Fellowship Hall. These sessions can be one-on-one or small groups and can be scheduled at your convenience! Beth's email is layleader@dranesvilleumc.org.



IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

We hope to share in-person and zoom worship each Sunday. In the event of inclement weather, we may move to a virtual-only zoom service. We will publish any notification of cancellations of our in-person worship by email on Saturday. We encourage all church members, and guests to observe all safety precautions by staying off the roads during extremely dangerous weather conditions. The church building will be closed if Fairfax County Public Schools are closed.

NEXT:
March 19th
6PM

 **WEDNESDAY**
NIGHT Dinner



Winter
Warm Up
POTLUCK
February 26th!



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.

February 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:
March 11th!**



**EVEN 4 OTHERS collection - 349
items collected for LINK!!!**

**Grocery Gift Card
collection March 23rd**

We will have our bi-monthly collection for LINK

A Snow Blowing Team!! Thank YOU!!



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. A Mission Trip Fundraising Brunch is scheduled for March 30th (after Worship Service) to help with expenses.



Hurricane Helene Mission Trip Fundraiser March 30th (after Worship Service): All are invited (including friends/family) to a delicious brunch after Worship Service to help raise awareness and funds for the DUMC mission trip June 22-27th. We will be working with Habitat for Humanity, who doesn't require a volunteer fee but we hope to raise monies for gas, food and some of the lodging expenses. In addition, a love offering to Habitat at the end of our trip would be a nice gesture.

Let Beth Hitchings know (layleader@dranesvilleumc.org or dghitchings@verizon.net) if you would like to help with the brunch and/or bring a dish to share.



Dranesville

United Methodist Church

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

March

- 2 Holy Communion
- 5 Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm
- 9 Girl Scout Sunday
Daylight Savings Time
Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 11 Mobile Food Pantry
- 19 Wednesday Night Community Dinner
theme: St. Patrick’s Day
- 23 Grocery Card Collection

April

- 6 Holy Communion
- 8 Mobile Food Pantry
- 13 Palm Sunday
Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 17 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday 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!



Every Week Join Us In Study and Prayer:

[Dranesvilleumc.org/connect](https://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
Closed Friday, March 14th