

Dranesville UMC Newsletter

July 2025

Five Things I Learned From Our Mission Outreach Trip

Last week, our group spent five days with Habitat for Humanity in Asheville NC, swinging hammers and getting our hands dirty. I thought I'd learn about construction. Turns out, the real lessons had nothing to do with power tools.

1. Sweat Equity in Relationships

There's grace in working alongside people. Our team was a mix – current church folks and some who moved but still wanted to join in on the outreach. Real talk happens when you're passing tools and sharing whatever shade you can find. We weren't just building houses – we were building and strengthening friendships. Also, we ate, spent time, sang and had nightly devotions together. For me strengthening relationships was one of the gems from this trip.

2. God's Toolbox Is Bigger Than Mine

I always knew God was everywhere, but this trip made it crystal clear. God wasn't just in our morning prayers – He was in the way our finances came together, how we cooperated in so many ways, and keeping us safe throughout the week.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message	1
Sunday School & Study	3
Worship & Fellowship	4
Vacation Bible School	5
Graduates '25 Celebrate!	6
Museum of the Bible	8
LINK Against Hunger	9
Book Club & AART Golf	10
Mission Trip	11
Celebration & Homecoming	15
Calendar	16



**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.*

Five Things I Learned From Our Mission Outreach Trip (continued)

Moreover, the Habitat crew felt like part of God's plan too. They could've rolled their eyes at our amateur skills, but instead, they were patient with us until we finally got things right. By midweek, we weren't visitors anymore – we were all on the same team.

3. Vulnerability Keeps You Real

Day two knocked me down a peg. The heat hit me like a brick wall, and I had to wave the white flag. My superhero moment turned into a "pass the electrolytes" reality check. I had to stop and take a nap in the middle of the day because I wasn't drinking enough Gatorade. That humbling moment connected me to the families we were serving in ways that just showing up never could. We're all fragile, we all hit walls, and that's not failure – that's being human. Plus, receiving care from my team reminded me that heroes work in teams, not solo. Thanks!

4. My Gratitude Tank Got Topped Off

Our team was pure gold. Everyone pulled their weight without complaint. People shared tools, snacks, energy, food, finances – whatever was needed. I want to thank Beth Hitchings for her gracious work in organizing this trip. To everyone who drove, to those who cooked, to those who cleaned, to those who did whatever was needed at the time. This mission outreach trip had thousands of tasks and everyone contributed in completing them with love. Thanks to the Shaws and Claytons for their generosity providing dinner on Thursday night and to the Browns for hosting dinner on Wednesday. Paying attention to these small and large kindnesses filled my gratitude tank. When I came home Friday, I was full of appreciation. Thanks to God and a shout out to all the team members!

5. Joy Is the Best Power Tool

The real joy wasn't just in the work – it was in doing life together for a week. Our car rides to and from Asheville were filled with conversations and singing. Meal times were memorable. We didn't just grab food to eat – we lingered around tables, sharing stories and memories. Even the work itself was a delight -- not because swinging hammers is inherently fun, but because we were swinging them together. The connection was real, and the sense of purpose was authentic. On the last night, after dinner we had an impromptu Karaoke night. We filled that neighborhood with oldies but goodies. I had a lot of fun.



Thanks for your prayers, financial and spiritual support, and partnership. Fifteen of us went, but I sensed all your presence every day. Thank you!

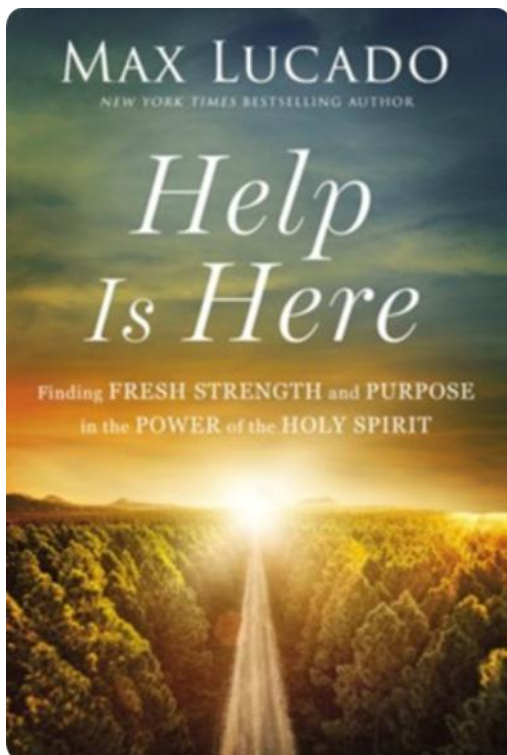
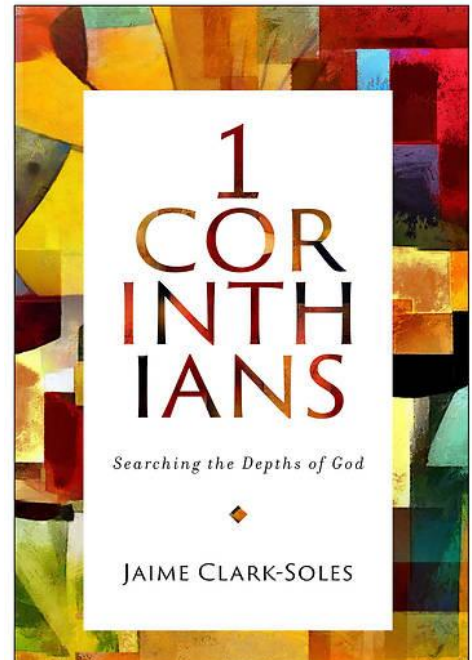
Pastor Keith

Tuesday and Thursday Bible Study

First Corinthians: Searching the Depths of God

By Dr. Jaime Clark-Soles

1 Corinthians is basically a letter Paul wrote to a people who were trying a wild new social experiment known as a Christian community. Centuries later, our churches deal with many of the same issues Paul addresses: factions, sexual immorality, gender issues, money concerns, theological questions, lawsuits, problems in worship, and problems in leadership. In *1 Corinthians: Searching the Depths of God*, Jaime Clark-Soles explores these topics and the awe-inspiring, breathtaking world of the first-century church.



Adult Sunday School

Help Is Here

by Max Lucado

Now more than ever, we're all weary from the loads we carry and the challenges we face. We have questions we cannot answer and problems we cannot solve. We'd hoped that life would be an invigorating adventure or an inspiring journey. We never expected to grow so tired so quickly. Max Lucado teaches us that we can find fresh strength and purpose in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Join us in the library or on Zoom at 9:00 for this five-week series starting Sunday June 01, 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

SUMMER GUEST ORGANIST

Please welcome our guest organist for most of the summer, Dan Catalanotto. Dan will be with us for the first two Sundays in July (6th and 13th), taking a break and then will be back with us for most of August.

Dan has extensive experience as a church musician and music director at a number of churches in Florida, Virginia and Maryland since 1979. He started playing in church when he was 13! He has accompanied weddings, funerals, and instrumental and vocal musicians in the DC area as well as other locations. His most recent position was as Minister of Music at The Historic Church of George Washington, Pohick Church in Lorton, VA.

Dan has a B.A. from the University of New Orleans and a Master of Sacred Music from Emory University. He is married to Tina Catalanotto, and they have two children, Mackenzie and Sebastian. Welcome Dan!!



EVERGREEN
Lunch Group

Lunch with the Evergreen Group:

July 13 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.



Mookies BBQ

1141 Walker Rd.

Great Falls VA

www.mookiesbbq.com

Please join us for a summer dinner out on Wednesday July 16th at Mookies BBQ at 6:00.

Please RSVP to Donna Carlo 703 244-2911 or mdgirlinva@yahoo.com



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 14-17
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.



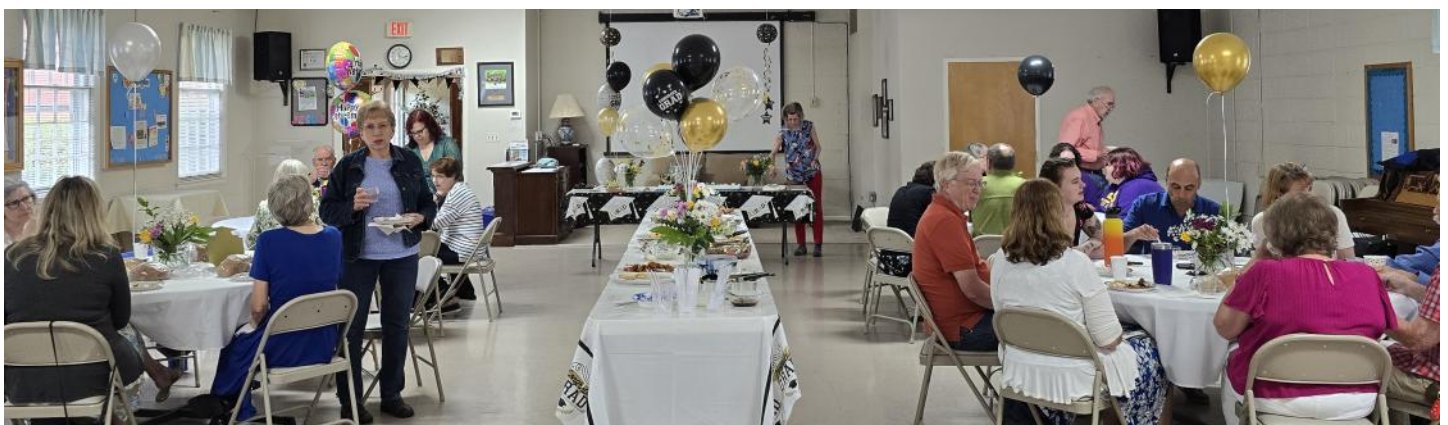
**ages 3-9
\$50/child**

**Registration begins May 11th:
dranesvilleumc.org/vbs2025**

Dranesville UMC VBS July 14-17th: Please get the word out to friends, neighbors, and family members that Dranesville UMC will have another spirit and fun-filled VBS this year, July 14-17th 8:30am-Noon. We will have Story-time, Music, Art, Science/Technology, Games/Playtime and, of course, Snack Time!. The theme of VBS is **Jesus and Prayer**, with each day introducing the kids to a specific message.

*We welcome participants (Ages 3-9 and volunteers (teens are a big help!).
Please contact Beth Hitchings (layleader@dranesvilleumc.org)
or Pastor Keith (pastor@dranesvilleumc.org).*

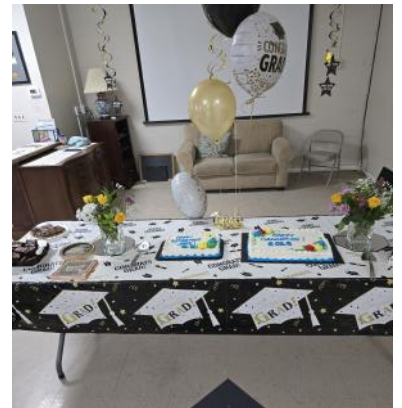
GRADUATION '25

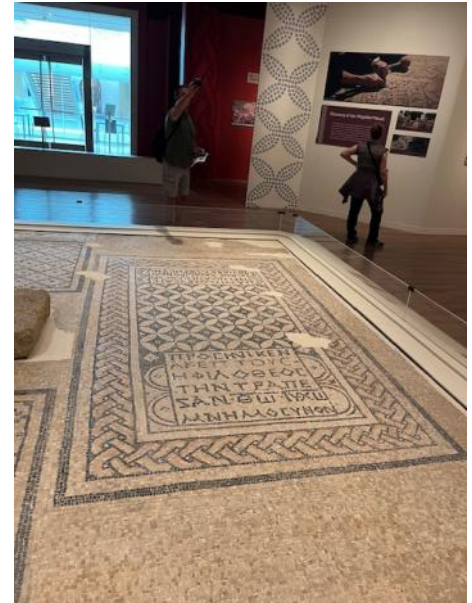
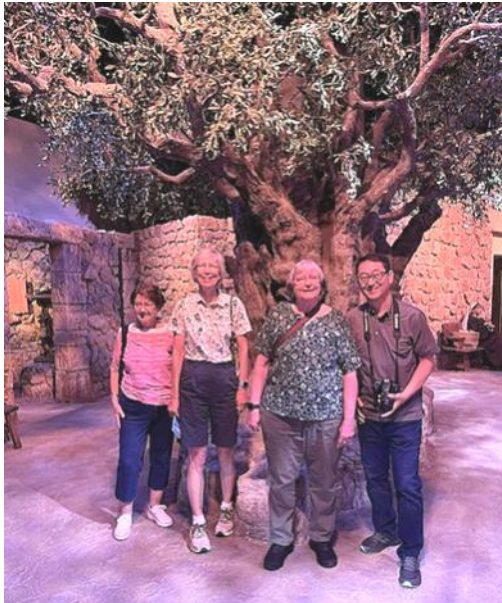


GRADUATION '25



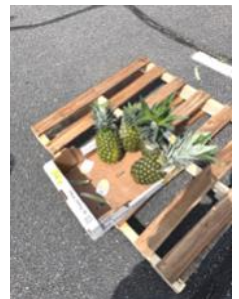
And RETIREMENT '25





March Mobile Food Pantry: Next: July 8th

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 pictures are from the June 10th LINK MFPs including produce: papayas, pineapple, cauliflower and romaine.



Even 4 Others donated 388 items in June!!

Next: Grocery Card Collection July 27th.





DUMC Book Club—Interested?

Are you interested in joining a book club with fellow DUMC'ers? (Even if you already belong to one!) We are exploring interest in setting one up: In person or online? Evenings or weekdays? Fiction or non-fiction preference? How often (monthly? bi-monthly?) Please send an email to Beth Hitchings, layleader@dranesvilleumc.org.

Office Help Needed in September

Sharon, will be out of the office for 2 weeks from August 28-September 12th. We need volunteers for one or more mornings to answer the few calls that may come in and answer the door, etc. The dates are Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday September 2-4th and 9-11th. The office is closed on Monday and Friday.

If you would be able to come in one of those mornings from 8/9am-12:30pm, please contact Sharon at office@dranesvilleumc.org or Pastor Keith at pastor@dranesvilleumc.org. Sharon will arrange for you to have a key and all the details.

This is really easy duty answering anyone at the door or the few calls that come in. Sharon will be checking emails and have all the printing done ahead as well. You could certainly bring a book or needlework, ipad, etc. and you'll have access to the computer and internet.



14th Annual Tee Off for Children's Literacy

Date: Wednesday, September 10th, 2025

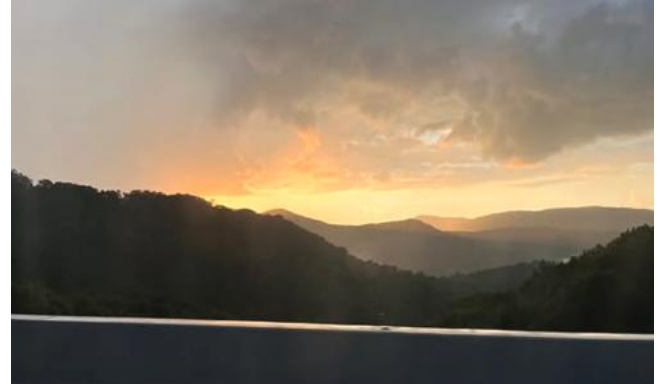
Location: Raspberry Falls Golf & Hunt Club

Calling all golf enthusiasts! AART is excited to be hosting our 14th Annual Tee Off for Chil-

DUMC Mission Trip

Going on a mission outreach with church members is more than just accomplishing tasks for people in need—it's also about the shared moments throughout the journey. This includes the road trip itself: music echoing through the car, laughter filling the spaces between conversations, and the feeling of being in motion together. As the road stretches ahead, time seems to slow down. You share lives as you share the road, and with every stop or detour, stories emerge—ones you've never heard before, even from friends you've known for years.

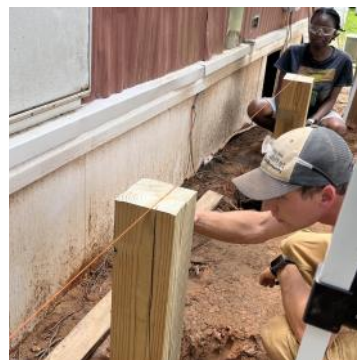
The mission outreach brought together longtime members from Roanoke, Virginia, and Black Mountain, North Carolina, as well as Northern Virginia. Fifteen of us are looking forward to reconnecting and strengthening our relationships in the Lord.



The first full day of the mission outreach trip for our church, Dranesville UMC. This is the challenging part of the trip: actually going out to the sites that need repair.

Our group was divided into four teams. The first was assigned to construction sites where Habitat is building new houses. The second was assigned to finishing the ceiling in a house. The third was putting up drywall. The fourth was tasked with building a deck—the former one was swept away by the flood last year.

We came back in the afternoon and shared a meal together. Then had evening devotion time where Rusty, Craig, and Chris shared stories from past Dranesville mission outreaches.



DUMC Mission Trip

Pictures are worth thousand words. It was hot and most of us were working outside or inside without AC. The Habitat staff overall are helpful and generous. They told us the goal of these mission outreach projects are not about completing tasks only. It is a ministry to clients, volunteers and staff. They told us to take our time and not be in a hurry.



DUMC Mission Trip

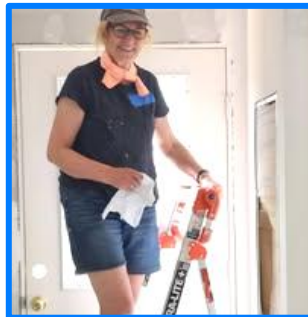
Tuesday night Diane prepared the meal. She made several types of lasagna, garlic bread, salad and these two desert dishes. The one she's holding in her hand has a decoration of NC with two hearts. It's her homage to the state.

Chris shared about his mission trip to Cuba and read the Great Commission—"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." How are disciples made? Step by step, detail by detail. They aren't made in a day or in a year. We all take a lifetime to mature as disciples of Christ.

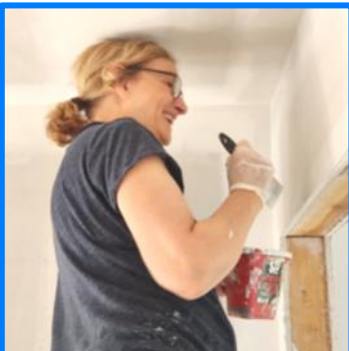




DUMC Mission Trip

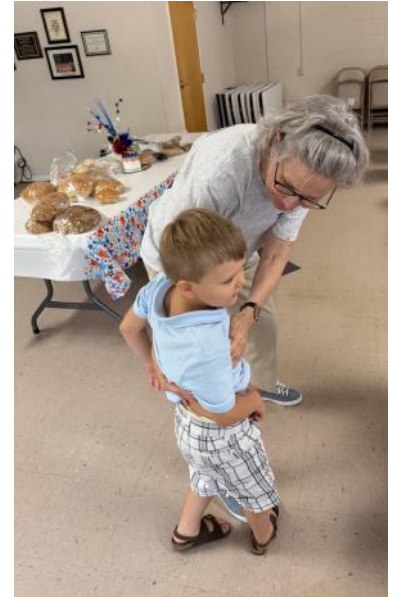


Beth, Irene and Janet worked at the Habitat ReStore. They prepared for Christmas!!
Wow Christmas in June!





Happy Anniversary to the Blevins and Welcome Home to the Mission Team





Dranesville

United Methodist Church

*"Making disciples of Jesus Christ by
feeding body, mind and soul."*

Summer Office hours: Tuesday—Thursday 8:30 am—12:30 pm

July

- 6 Holy Communion
- 8 Mobile Food Pantry
- 13 Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 16 Dinner at Mookies BBQ, Great Falls at 6 pm
- 14-17 Vacation Bible School
- 27 LINK Grocery Card Collection

GIVE Online!



August

- 3 Holy Communion
- 10 Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 12 Mobile Food Pantry
- 15 August/September Newsletter published
- 24 Even 4 Others Collection

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.

Summer Office hours: Tuesday—Thursday 8:30 am—12:30 pm

FOUR WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE



BY MAIL



OFFERING



STOCK GIFT