

Dranesville UMC Newsletter

August/September 2025

AI and the Church: What Do You Think?

As artificial intelligence becomes part of our daily lives, many of us are wondering: How should our church respond to AI? Can this technology help us serve God better?

A Guide for Churches

Author Jason Moore recently wrote "AI and the Church: A Clear Guide for the Curious and Courageous" to help church leaders think through these questions. Moore doesn't say we should avoid AI or jump into it without thinking. Instead, he suggests we approach it carefully and see how it might help our ministry.

The book looks at both the good and challenging parts of using AI in church. Moore shows how AI could help with things like administrative work or worship planning, but he also tackles the hard questions about what's right and wrong when using this technology. His main point? AI isn't about replacing people—it's about helping us do ministry better.

Some Real Concerns

We do need to think about a couple of important issues. First, many AI systems were trained using content from the internet, including copyrighted books, music, and art. This means when AI "creates" something new, it might be using other people's work without giving them credit or payment. As Christians, we need to respect other people's creative work.

Second, AI uses a lot of energy. Running these systems creates significant carbon emissions, and as people who care about God's creation, we should consider the environmental cost of our technology choices.

Help Us Use AI for Ministry

I'll be honest—I'm still learning about AI and how it could help our church. That's where you come in! If you have experience with AI tools or ideas about how we could use them, I'd love to hear from you.

We could potentially use AI for creating social media posts, editing

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message	1
Sunday School & Study	3
Worship	4
Fellowship	5
Vacation Bible School	6
LINK Against Hunger	8
Gleaning & AART Golf	9
Calendar	10



**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.*

AI and the Church: What Do You Think? (continued)

videos, planning events, organizing volunteer schedules, or even helping with exploring new ministry opportunities. Maybe you know about AI tools that could help with our website, community outreach, or administrative tasks.

If you have knowledge about any of these areas—or other ways AI might serve our ministry—please reach out to me. I'm all ears! I'm genuinely excited about the possibilities. This technology could free up our time for the things that matter most: building relationships, caring for people, and spreading God's love in our community. Let's explore this together!

Sabbatical is Hard to Do

For August after discussing with SPRC I've decided to have a sabbatical month. I'll be honest with you—taking a sabbatical is harder than I thought it would be. This month, I'm trying to focus just on preaching, reading, and reflecting on God. Sounds simple, right? But I keep finding myself feeling anxious when I'm not "doing enough." My mind starts racing about all the things I should be working on, and I catch myself looking for tasks to fill the quiet moments instead of just resting in the Lord.

It's funny how we pastors can preach about rest and Sabbath, but when it comes to actually practicing it, we struggle just like everyone else. I keep having to remind myself that this time isn't about productivity—it's about letting God fill me up again. Every time I feel that familiar tug to check my email or start a new project, I have to consciously choose to pray instead, to pick up a book, or to simply sit quietly and listen for God's voice.

The good news is that I'm slowly getting there. Each day gets a little easier to trust that the world won't fall apart if I'm not constantly busy. I'm rediscovering the joy of reading without a deadline, of praying without rushing to the next thing, and of letting my mind wander where God leads it. It's a process, but I'm learning that sometimes the most important work we do is the work of simply being still before our Creator.

Pastor Keith

WELCOME OUR NEW ORGANIST!

Please welcome our new choir accompanist and organist, Hyunjung Han, who also goes by "Helen". Helen will be rehearsing with the choir starting August 28 and will start playing in the services on September 7. A lifelong Christian, Helen learned to play the piano at age 4 and began playing the piano in church in the 4th grade. She is grateful for the musical talents God has given her and seeks to glorify God when she plays. Helen has extensive experience playing the piano and organ in a number of Korean Churches in Northern Virginia and New York. She is looking forward to playing in "an American church". Her most recent position was at the Korean Vision and Love Church in Centreville, VA. She also plays the piano at Ashby Ponds, Erickson Senior Living in Ashburn, VA. Helen has a degree in piano from Hanyang University in Seoul, South Korea. She has two adult daughters, ages 19 and 23. **Welcome Helen !!**



Tuesday and Thursday Bible Study

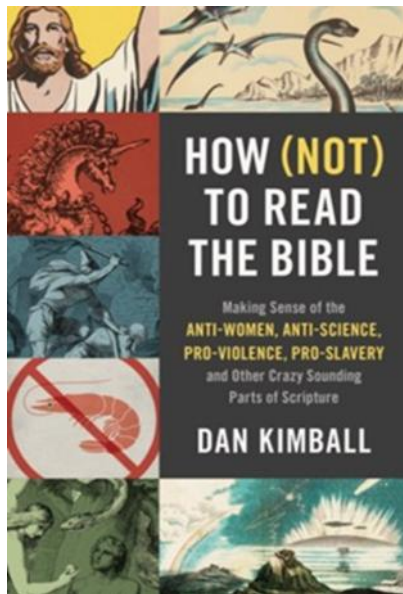
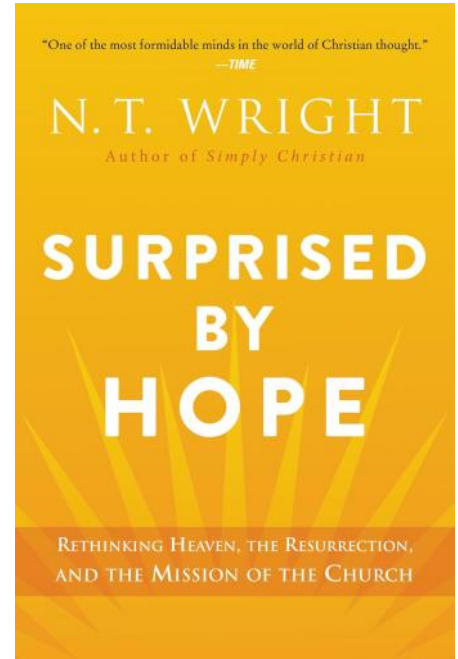
Surprised by Hope

In this groundbreaking book renowned Bible scholar, Anglican bishop, and bestselling author N. T. Wright argues that Christians have not distorted the Bible's message about heaven and what happens after we die.

For years, Christians have been asking, "If you died tonight, do you know where you would go?" It turns out that many believers have been giving the wrong answer. It is not heaven.

Wright outlines the present confusion about a Christian's future hope and shows how it is deeply intertwined with how we live today. Wright asserts that Christianity's most distinctive idea is bodily resurrection, and provides a magisterial defense for a literal resurrection of Jesus. Wright then explores our expectation of "new heavens and a new earth," revealing what happens to the dead until then and what will happen with the "second coming" of Jesus. For many, including many Christians, it will come as a great surprise to learn that heaven comes to earth instead of us going to heaven.

Wright convincingly argues that what we believe about life after death directly affects what we believe about life before death. For if God intends to renew the whole creation—and if this has already begun in Jesus's resurrection—the church cannot stop at "saving souls" but must anticipate the eventual renewal by working for God's kingdom in the wider world, bringing healing and hope in the present life..



Adult Sunday School

How (Not) to Read the Bible

This study is a resource for ministering to people who have objections to, or misconceptions of Scripture. Offering context and critical principles of interpretation, Dan Kimball explores five common biblical stumbling blocks---its relationship to science, the violence we find there, its treatment of women, strange-sounding commands, and the claim that there is only one way to know God.

Join us in the library or on Zoom at 9:00 for this six-week series starting Sunday September 14, 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](#)

Worship & Fellowship



Blessing of the Backpacks, Students & Teachers

Sunday Worship: August 24th

Join us Sunday, August 24th. All students, teachers, and educators are encouraged to bring your backpacks to be blessed for the new school year.

PET BLESSING WILL BE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

Sunday, September 28th during worship, **bring a reminder of your pet** - a picture or toy, and we will pray for them in worship.



DUMC Book Club—September 17th

Dranesville's UMC Book Club kicks off this fall on September 17th at 7:00pm (after Wednesday night dinner). Join us by Zoom or in the Library for a discussion on *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. If you can't make it, no worries, we will be meeting every other month (or so) with new selections. Let Beth Hitchings (layleader@dranesvilleumc.org) know if you have any questions.

Worship & Fellowship

Lunch with the Evergreen Group:

September 14th at 12:00 pm in Sterling

at The Bungalow Lakehouse Restaurant.



EVERGREEN
Lunch Group



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



August 20th-
Jimmy's Old
Town Tavern

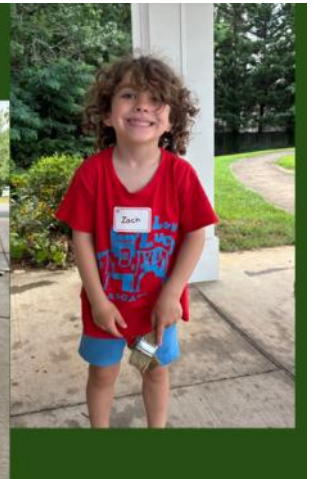
September 17- End of Summer Theme & Book Club

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 14-17
8:30AM-12:00PM





More
VBS!



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.



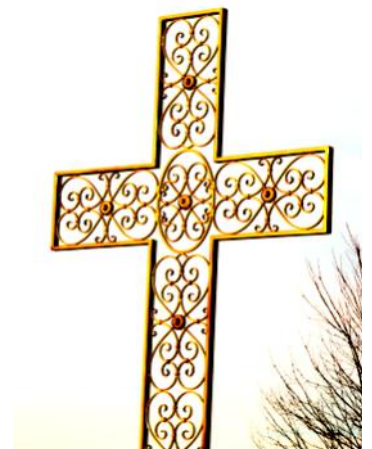
**\$490 LINK
GROCERY
CARDS
COLLECTED IN
JULY !!**

EVEN FOR OTHERS: COLLECTION AUGUST 24TH

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, October 27th. They will be counted and transported to the LINK location after church.

Grocery cards collected again September 28th.

Please donate grocery gift cards from your favorite grocery store to give to families in need. Send by mail or drop off at church in the drop box under the Portico. Please, no cards over \$25. If you prefer to write a check, make the check payable to "Dranesville UMC" with "LINK" on the memo.



Apple Gleaning at Marker Miller Orchard, Winchester VA

Each year, DUMC has been participating in Society of St. Andrew, a United Methodist mission effort, to glean apples for local area food banks (including LINK). Two dates are proposed: September 27th or October 18th. We depart DUMC at 8:00 AM and return by 12:00. If you are interested in either one of these dates, please contact Beth Hitchings (layleader@dranesvilleumc.org).



Office Hours in September

Sharon, will be out of the office for 2 weeks from August 28-September 12th. Many thanks to the volunteers that will answer phones and greet visitors Wednesdays and Thursdays! The office is closed on Monday and Friday.



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 Children's Literacy. We will share further details about this event in the coming months.



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
Closed Fridays till September 16th**

August

- 24 Blessing of the Backpacks
Even 4 Others Collection
Youth and Young Adults Lunch
- 31 Melissa Dunlap Guest Speaker

GIVE Online!

September

- 7 Holy Communion
- 9 Mobile Food Pantry
- 10 AART Golf Tournament
- 14 Volunteer Sunday
Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 17 Community Potluck Dinner
DUMC Book Club—1st Meeting!
- 21 Volunteer Sunday
- 28 Pet Blessing
Grocery Card 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