

Dranesville UMC Newsletter

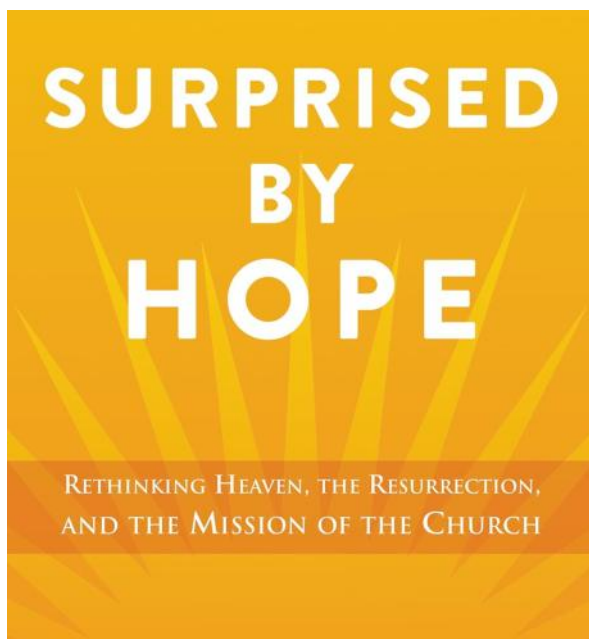
October 2025

Surprised by Hope: A New Sermon Series

I'm excited to announce our upcoming sermon series based on N.T. Wright's book, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. Wright challenges many common assumptions about the Christian hope, inviting us to rediscover what the Bible actually teaches about life after death, resurrection, and God's ultimate plan for creation. Rather than focusing on "going to heaven when we die," Wright reminds us that God's promise is about heaven coming to earth—a renewed creation where God dwells with humanity forever. This series will help us reimagine our faith and reshape how we live as God's people today.

Heaven and Earth Together: God's Original Design

When we read "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1), we might assume God created two separate realms—one above for the divine, one below for humanity. Yet as the creation narrative unfolds in verse 2 and beyond, we discover something more profound: God's focus is on earth and its story with humanity. From the very beginning, heaven and earth were meant to overlap, with God's presence dwelling among his people. The Garden of Eden itself was a place where heaven and earth met, where God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. This was God's original intention—not separation, but communion.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message	1
Sunday School	3
Worship	4
Fellowship	5
DUMC Book Club	6
LINK Against Hunger	7
Gleaning/ Even 4 Others	8
More Mission	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.*

Surprised by Hope: A New Sermon Series (continued)

When Heaven Touches Earth: Glimpses in the Old Testament

Throughout Genesis and the Old Testament, we see remarkable moments when heaven breaks through to earth. Consider Jacob at Bethel, fleeing from his brother, sleeping with a stone for a pillow. In his dream, he saw a ladder connecting heaven and earth, with angels ascending and descending. Upon waking, he exclaimed, "Surely the LORD is in this place... This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven" (Genesis 28:16-17). Later, at Mahanaim, Jacob encountered angels of God, recognizing that God's heavenly host accompanied him on his earthly journey. These weren't escapes from earth to heaven, but divine invasions—moments when the veil grew thin and God's realm intersected with ours.

Heaven and Earth United: The Word Became Flesh

The ultimate meeting of heaven and earth came in Jesus Christ. In the Incarnation, God didn't call us up to heaven; he came down to earth. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14)—literally, he "tabernacled" with us, echoing God's presence in the wilderness. In Jesus, we see heaven's reality breaking into earth's brokenness: the blind see, the lame walk, sins are forgiven, and death itself is defeated. His resurrection wasn't an escape from the physical world, but its transformation—a preview of God's plan to renew all creation. Jesus didn't come to show us the way out of this world, but to demonstrate God's intention to redeem it.

Heaven on Earth Today: The Church as God's Temple

This story continues today in the most surprising way—through us. As God's people, we are now the place where heaven and earth meet. Paul writes that we are "God's temple" where the Spirit dwells (1 Corinthians 3:16). When we gather for worship, serve our neighbors, pursue justice, and embody Christ's love, we become thin places where God's heavenly reality breaks into our earthly existence. Our mission isn't to abandon earth for heaven, but to pray and work for God's kingdom to come "on earth as it is in heaven." Every act of compassion, every work of justice, every gesture of love is a foretaste of the world to come—when heaven and earth will finally and fully unite.

Join us for this journey through *Surprised by Hope* as we rediscover the biblical vision of our future and how it transforms our present. When we understand that God's plan is to bring heaven to earth, everything changes—our worship, our work, and our life in the world.

Please join us for this wonderful series.

Pastor Keith

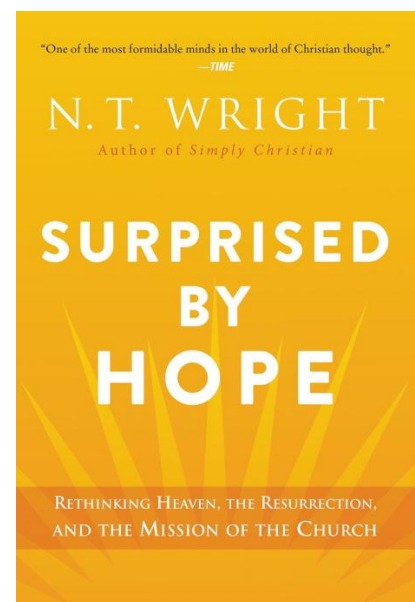
Tuesday and Thursday Bible Study

[Dranesvilleumc.org/connect](https://dranesvilleumc.org/connect)

Tuesday Evening: 7pm OR Thursday Morning: 10am

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.

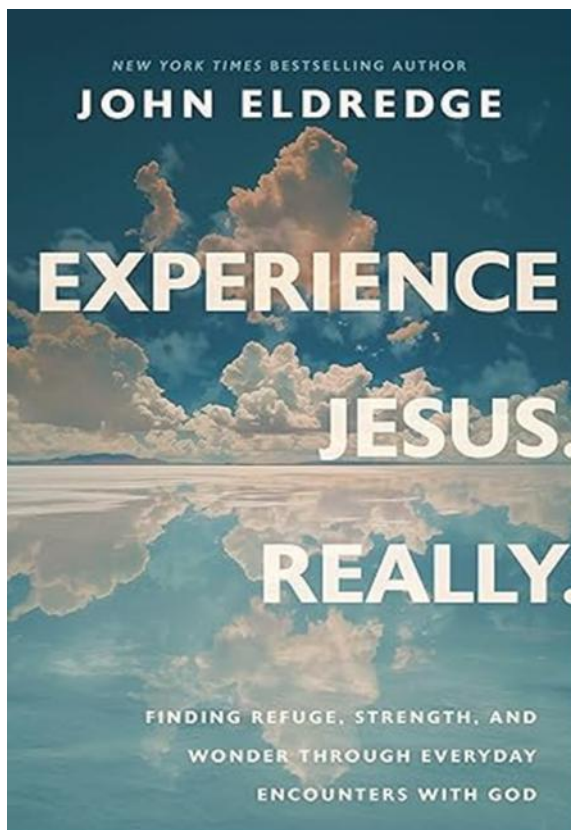
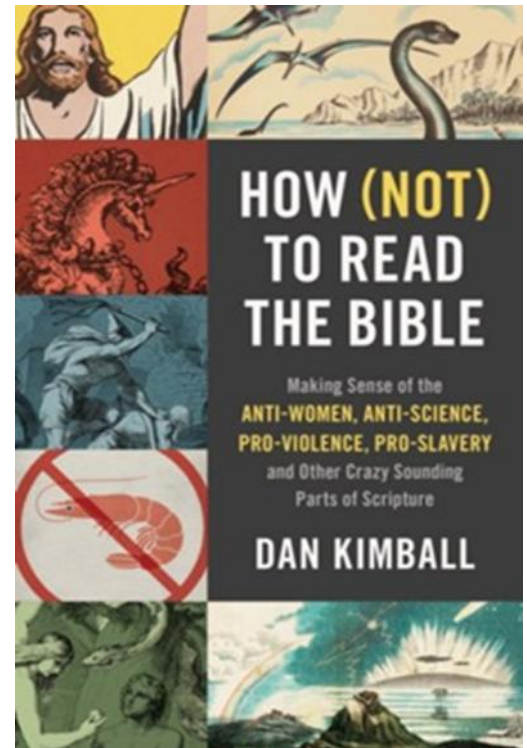


Adult Sunday School

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.



Adult Sunday School

Experience Jesus. Really.

- In this present age, we are all becoming disciples of the Internet. We are addicted to distraction. We idolize our instant access to a never-ending avalanche of information.
- In *Experience Jesus. Really.*, John Eldredge guides us to a beautiful alternative to the soulless, disenchanted existence you may find yourself living in today.
- Join us in the library or on Zoom at 9:00 for this five-week series starting Sunday October 26, 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

November 1st Handbell Festival

Our Handbell group will be participating in the Herndon Handbell Festival on November 1 at Trinity Presbyterian church across from Herndon Elementary. After practicing all day with other church handbell groups, we will present a concert for the community that evening at the church. The time of the concert will follow. Hope to see you there!



ADVENT Readers Needed

We would very much like to have families or individuals light the advent wreath candle and read for Advent this year. It is a short responsive reading in the first half of worship and we send the reading ahead of time. We need readers for the four Sundays in Advent: November 30, December 7, 14, 21 and the 24th, Christmas Eve.

If you are willing to participate then contact Pastor Keith or email office@dranesvilleumc.org. We are so grateful for your participation.

September 28: Pet Blessing



Fellowship

Lunch with the Evergreen Group:

October 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.



October 15th @ 6pm

Fall Harvest Theme

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

Fellowship



DUMC Book Club—November 12th

The DUMC Book Group met on September 17th and had a great discussion of Kristen Hannah's, *The Women*. Thanks to all participants who made it such a worthwhile discussion, and to those readers who couldn't attend—Next time!

Our next book, *Ladies of the House*, is by Lauren Edmundson, a local author and Professor of Literature at NVCC. We plan to meet on Zoom and at the Church Library at 7:00pm on November 12th. Please let Beth Hitchings know if you plan to participate on Zoom.

We'd love to have a recommendation, and/or if you want to share a book, we've started a small lending table in the Fellowship Hall. We also are looking into possibly purchasing an e-book for the church if interested. Stay tuned for more details.

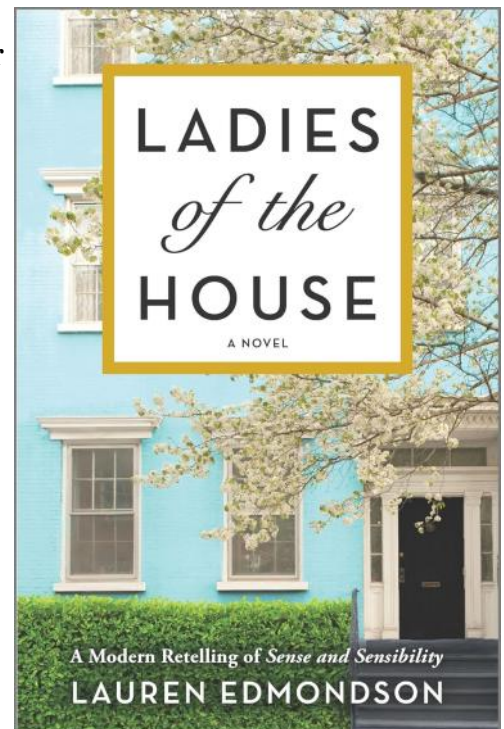
Beth Hitchings, Lay Leader

Set in high-society Georgetown, an irresistible family drama about two sisters and the public scandal that just may lead them to rewrite the rules...

No surprise is a good surprise. At least according to thirty-four-year-old Daisy Richardson. So when it's revealed in dramatic fashion that her esteemed father had been involved in a public scandal before his untimely death, Daisy's life becomes complicated—and fast.

For one, the Richardsons must now sell the family home in Georgetown they can no longer afford, and Daisy's mother is holding on with an iron grip. Her younger sister, Wallis, is ready to move on to bigger and better things but falls fast and hard for the most inconvenient person possible. And then there's Atlas, Daisy's best friend. She's always wished they could be more, but now he's writing an exposé on the one subject she's been desperate to avoid: her father.

Daisy's plan is to maintain a low profile as she works to keep her family intact amid social exile, public shaming, and quickly dwindling savings. But the spotlight always seems to find the Richardsons, and when another twist in the scandal comes to light, Daisy must confront the consequences of her continued silence and summon the courage to stand up and accept the power of her own voice.



Mobile Food Pantry: Next: October 14th

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.

Here's some smiles from the September Mobile Food Pantry!



Mobile Food Pantry—Extra Days to Volunteer

You are invited by LINK Food Pantry to sign up for ["October LINK Food Distribution."](#) This is a special distribution that is on Saturday, Oct. 24th at TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (651 Dranesville Rd, Herndon). We need help on **Friday AND Saturday**.



Check out our last
"Special Distribution"
Day from September!



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).

Stay tuned for a possible date. If you are interested please contact Beth Hitchings layleader@dranesvilleumc.org).



\$660 TOTAL GROCERY CARDS COLLECTED FOR LINK IN SEPTEMBER!!

EVEN FOR OTHERS COLLECTION OCTOBER 26TH



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.

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

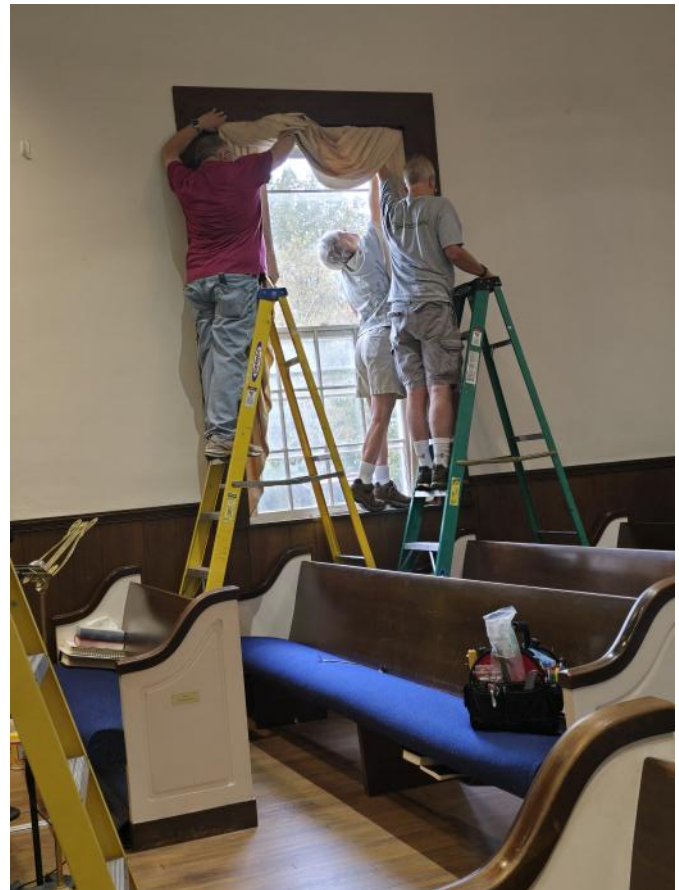
Grocery cards collected Early for November 16th.

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.



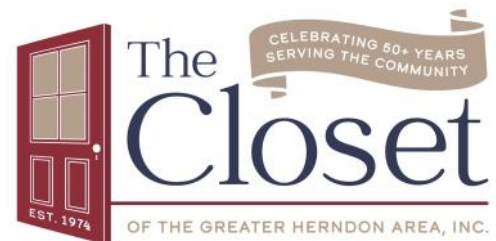
I ♥ MY CHURCH

You may have noticed some changes in the sanctuary this past month. A full scale repair and rehab of our sanctuary windows is ongoing. You can see from this picture that our Trustees and Treasurer LOVE OUR CHURCH. They even had to deal with some very industrious wasps but it didn't slow them down for long. They are back at it this month, scraping, sanding and painting. It's easy to check out their good stewardship and hard work for our church building any Sunday right from your pew!



We are excited to share some updates from THE CLOSET!

October 1st marks the first day of the Voucher Program's new season! For those who may not know, The Closet has several giveback initiatives, including the Voucher Program, Truck Ministry, Grants, Scholarships, and the Bread Pantry.



The Voucher Program operates 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM every day the store is open. It is designed to support community members experiencing hardship, those who are unhoused, living in shelters, recently unemployed, or simply in need. Individuals can visit one of the partner congregations, social services, or affiliate organizations. A case manager or congregation representative will assess their situation and write a referral for them to come to The Closet and receive essential items, at no cost to them.

Here's the part many people don't realize: The Closet covers 100% of this program. No outside organization, county program, or government agency funds it; only YOU, the customers. Every purchase you make helps ensure neighbors in need have access to necessities. This is why The Closet is so deeply grateful to the customers and donors. Your support has a real and lasting impact every single day.

What's next at The Closet?

If you missed the Everything Christmas Sales, don't worry, this month they're planning something wintry and wonderful for the Christmas enthusiasts. More details to come!



Dranesville

United Methodist Church

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

October

- 5 Holy Communion
- 12 Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 14 Mobile Food Pantry
- 15 Community Potluck Dinner
Church Council Meeting
- 22 Church Charge Conference
- 24 Gabriel Homes Boo Bash
- 24-25 Mobile Food Pantry
- 26 Even 4 Others Collection
VBS Meeting

GIVE Online!



November

- 1 Herndon Handbells Festival
- 2 Holy Communion
Daylight Savings Time ends
- 9 Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 11 Mobile Food Pantry
- 16 Grocery Card Collection
- 19 Community Potluck Dinner
DUMC Book Club—1st Meeting!
- 27 Thanksgiving
- 30 First Sunday of Advent

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