

Dranesville UMC Newsletter

January 2026

Up, In & Out

As we step into this new year, I want to clarify the direction of the church and the way we would like to grow as a community of faith. To keep things clear and simple, our goals for the year can be summed up in three words: Up, In and Out. It's an easy way to remember what we're aiming for as a church.

Up: Worship

First, Up—our life with God. We want our worship to be more meaningful, not just something we attend, but something that shapes us. We want to grow in prayer—not perfect prayers, not fancy prayers, just honest prayers. And we want Scripture to be closer to everyday life. Not only something we hear on Sunday, but something that steadies us on Tuesday, guides us on Thursday, and comforts us when life gets complicated.

I consider our church a “modern traditional” church. Many traditional churches focus on tradition rather than being a church. We're a church that follows Christ. That's our main identity. Within that, we honor tradition, but also incorporate relevant practices to renew our faith, and invite others into our relevant spiritual practices that we cherish and honor.

In: Community

Second, In—our life with one another. A healthy church is not a crowd; it's a community. We want to strengthen groups where people can be known and cared for. We want to make it easier for friendships to grow across generations. We want to build a culture of care, where nobody has to go through a hard season alone.

Please consider joining one of our three Bible study groups, Sundays at 9am, Tuesdays at 7pm and Thursdays at 10am. Also we have youth, young adults, the lawn mowing team, leadership, Evergreen lunch

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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.*

Up, In & Out (continued)

group, and book club meetings. Through these small groups, connections grow. We practice care and support for one another. Jesus said that He's the Vine and we're the branches. As we connect to the source of life and to one another, we're growing and maturing in the Lord. The fruit of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control is abundant at Dranesville. Thank you.

Out: Mission

Third, Out—our life for the sake of the world God loves. We serve locally in practical ways, because LINK, AART, the Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the Closet, the Dead Robots Society, and Gabriel Home partner with us.

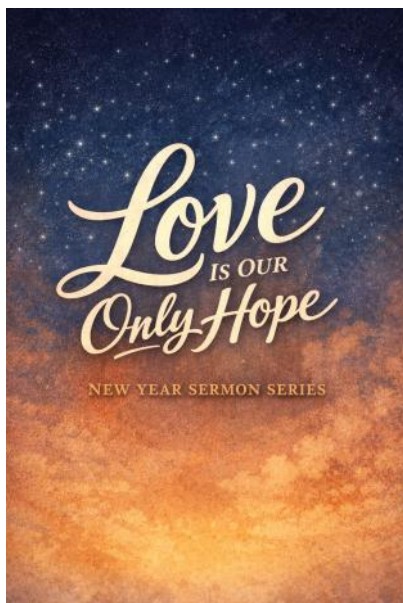
Our hope is that our church will be known for being present, faithful and caring. We're known for serving and for loving our neighbors well. One of the projects we're working on is being a distribution center on weekends in this area. The main obstacle is having enough volunteers. We hope to partner with our neighbors, Scouts and the Girl Scouts to have enough hands to distribute food to those in need.

So that's our direction for the year: Up, In, and Out. Worship that forms us. Community that holds us. Mission that sends us.

And here's my invitation: pick one small next step. One way to grow Up—a prayer habit, a Scripture reading plan, a weekly worship commitment. One way to grow In—join a group, reach out to someone, be part of caring for others. One way to live Out—serve, give, or show up consistently with a local ministry partner.

I hope and pray this helps in your journey of faith in Jesus at Dranesville UMC.

Pastor Keith



Love Is Our Only Hope Sermon Series

As we step into this new year, we're starting a sermon series called "**Love Is Our Only Hope.**" The heart of this series is the love of God that we see most clearly in Jesus. Many of us are tired, discouraged, or just trying to put one foot in front of the other. The good news is that God's love doesn't give up when we are weary, confused, or slow to change. This series is about that stubborn, persevering love—the love that moves into our neighborhood, walks with us through hard seasons, and keeps calling us forward when we're ready to quit. Week by week, we'll look at how the love of God in Christ holds us, reshapes us, and sends us back into the world as people who do not give up, because God does not give up on us. I hope this will help us in the new year God plans for us.

Worship



The Zoom team at work



Dranesville Choir



Handbell Choir



Kyoka on Violin



Jan McEwen on flute



Christmas Worship



Karen Rizzo on flute

Bible Study

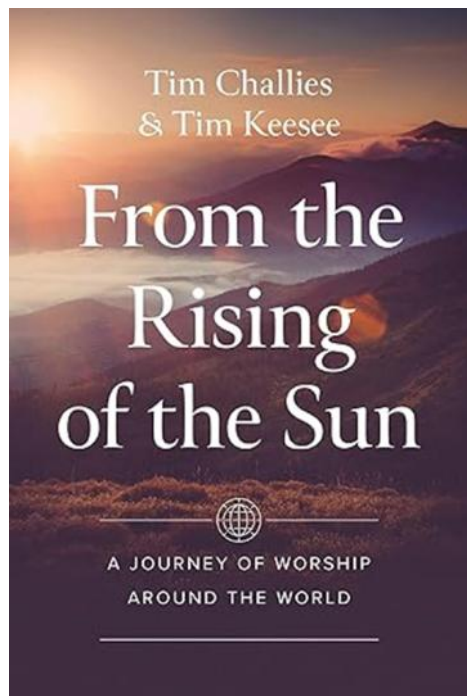
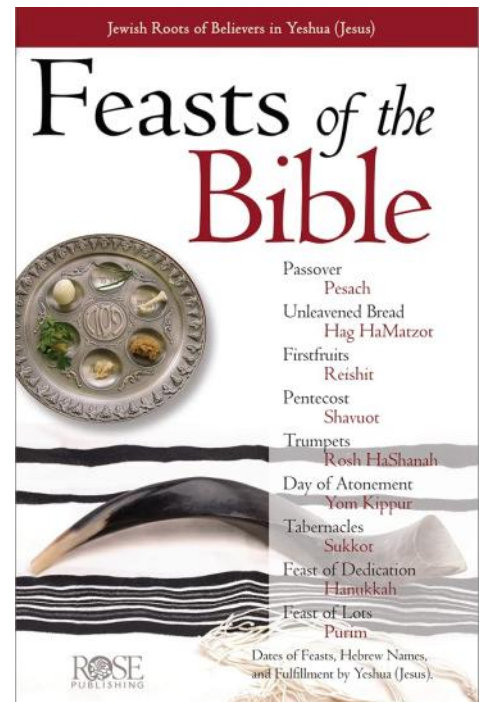
Tuesday and Thursday January Bible Study

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

Tuesday Evening: 7pm OR Thursday Morning: 10am

Feasts of the Bible

Continuing after Christmas: *The Feasts of the Bible* celebrates and explains the meaning behind the biblical feasts and why they are important today. Learn the history and symbolism in the Old Testament, and understand the Jewish roots of Christianity. Hear how to say important Hebrew words and phrases as you find out their meaning and how they point to Christ. Enjoy discovering fascinating facts, such as: *Pentecost* means 50 in Greek. It is celebrated 50 days after Passover.



Adult Sunday School *From the Rising of the Sun* Tim Challies & Tim Keese

From the Rising of the Sun takes you on an unforgettable journey, showcasing how believers from all corners of the earth praise God in ways that are consistent with Scripture but faithful to the local language, customs, and culture.

Whether you're passionate about global missions, fascinated by cultural diversity, or simply looking to deepen your understanding of worship, *From the Rising of the Sun* will inspire and uplift you.

Join us in the library or on Zoom at 9:00 for this twelve-week series starting Sunday January 05, 2026.

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](#)

Fellowship

Lunch with the Evergreen Group:



**January 11th 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.



***Young Adult/Youth December
Fellowship:
Ramen & Dumpling Party!***

Thank you Pastor Keith!



Next Potluck: January 28th "Tailgate Party"



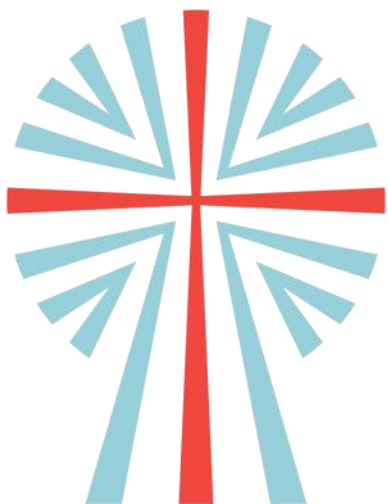
Check out all the fun at our January New Year's Brunch!



February 25th Potluck will be "Comfort Food" Theme



Thank you to all of our church leadership for your service. We say thank you to Kathy Banks and Joan Carlson and Welcome to our new Church Council Chairperson, Nate Johnston and our new Staff Parish Relations Committee Chairperson, Kristine Leach.



NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT

OF THE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH IN VIRGINIA

NoVa District Training Day returns on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at Floris United Methodist Church! We are excited to have great presenters, dozens of powerful workshops, and two different ways to engage with Training Day. Attend in-person at Floris United UMC or in a Virtual Group Experience with other members of our church.

Join us here at Dranesville to share a Virtual Group Experience with other members of Dranesville church. Contact Pastor Keith.

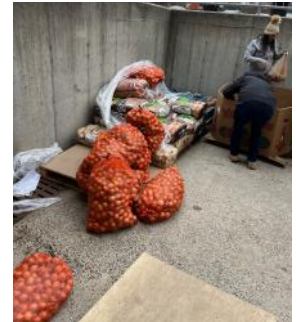
This year we will feature an opening keynote address from **Dr. Ashley Boggan**, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History, on rediscovering our rooted holiness—faith acted out as love for all people, everywhere.

We are also excited to offer presentations on “AI Foundations — What It Is and Why It Matters” with **Jason Moore**, a tech leader with Midnight Oil Productions and bestselling author at the forefront of integrating technology into ministry, and “The Four Pillars of Modern Worship Ministry” with **Faniel Pradel**, a music leader and presenter with the Institute for Modern Worship.

Mobile Food Pantry: Next: January 13th

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.

Here's some happenings from the November Mobile Food Pantry!



**1,347 items
collected in
December**



(Largest since December of 2022!)

**GROCERY GIFT CARD
COLLECTION ON JANUARY
25TH!!**

Donate grocery gift cards in denominations \$25 or less for families in need and put in the mail or the church drop box or donate by check with LINK in the memo.

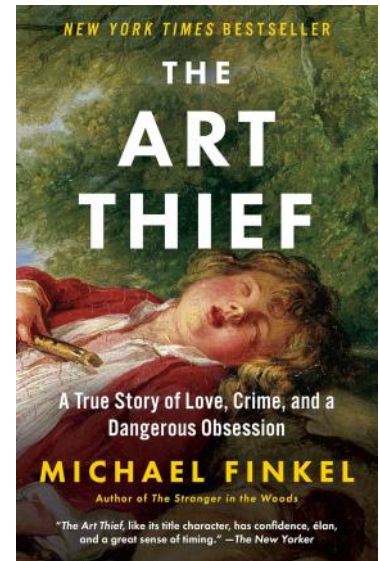


DUMC Book Club—January 14th

The DUMC Book Group had a great discussion with Lauren Edmondson and her first published novel, *Ladies of the House*. Our next book is *The Art Thief*, by journalist Michael Finkel, a true story about a couple who stole rare artifacts and paintings from museums in Europe. Our next get-together is January 14th at 7:00pm (with January 21st as a weather date). All are welcome--non-fiction/fiction lovers will find this a fascinating read! Bring a friend!

A snippet from an online review:

"Stéphane Bréitwieser is the most prolific art thief of all time. He pulled off more than 200 heists, often in crowded museums in broad daylight. His girlfriend served as his accomplice. His collection was worth an estimated \$2 billion. He never sold a piece, displaying his stolen art in his attic bedroom. He felt like a king. Until everything came to a shocking end. In this spellbinding portrait of obsession and flawed genius, Michael Finkel gives us one of the most remarkable true-crime narratives of our times, a riveting story of art, theft, love, and an insatiable hunger to possess beauty at any cost."



Beth Hitchings, Lay Leader

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to be an "Angel" for Kids Konnection DC.





Dranesville

United Methodist Church

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

January

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 4 | Holy Communion
New Year Brunch |
| 11 | Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm |
| 13 | Mobile Food Pantry |
| 14 | DUMC Book Club 7pm |
| 17 | UMC District Training Day |
| 25 | Grocery Card Collection |
| 28 | Wednesday Community Tailgate Potluck |

GIVE Online!



February

- | | |
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| 1 | Holy Communion |
| 8 | Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm |
| 10 | Mobile Food Pantry |
| 22 | Even 4 Others Collection |
| 25 | Wednesday Community Comfort Food Potluck |

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, January 9, 16 & 23