

Dranesville UMC Newsletter

December 2025

Christmas Dinner

This is the season of holidays. During Christmas, many of us will sit around tables. There will be favorite recipes, old jokes, kids running laps between the kitchen and the living room, and, if we're honest, a fair amount of eating in a hurry. Before we rush past it, I want to pause and think about what a table can mean in God's story.



Long before Christmas dinners, our older siblings in faith, the Jewish people, gathered each year for Passover. At Passover, they don't just talk about the Exodus, they act it out. They lean back as free people, because slaves don't recline at the table. They dip bitter herbs in salt water to remember tears and the sting of slavery. They eat sweet charoset that looks like brick mortar, and flat matzah that says, "We had to leave in a hurry." The youngest child asks, "Why is this night different from all other nights?" and the story is told again, as if they

Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 24th @ 7pm

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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.

Christmas Dinner (continued)

themselves walked out of Egypt last night. The lamb on the table remembers the lambs whose blood was painted on doorways so death would pass over. The story gets into their hands, mouths, bodies,

minds and souls. Year after year, those small gestures shape a habit of gratitude and a sense of responsibility for anyone still without community.

As Christians, we believe that all of this points to Jesus. In the New Testament, Christ is called our Passover Lamb, whose blood sets us free from sin and death. On the cross, He becomes the One through whom judgment “passes over” us and new life begins. So when we celebrate His birth at Christmas, we are welcoming into the world the Lamb who will one day lay down His life to redeem us.

What if our Christmas meals became something like a small Christian “Passover” for us? Not just “a delicious meal,” but a living parable of what we believe. We could light a simple candle and read a few verses from Luke 2 before we pass the rolls. We could let each person name one way they saw God’s mercy this year, and one place they still need it. We could remember that the baby in the manger is also the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

At Passover, some families keep an extra chair or cup for Elijah, a sign of hope. In recent years, some have named that empty place for soldiers returning home, or for hostages in Gaza. This Christmas, maybe we could leave an open seat too for the neighbor who is alone, the refugee family we’ve heard about, the estranged child we’re still praying for by name. Even if no one sits there, we remember them, we pray for them, and we ask Christ, our Passover Lamb, to widen our hearts. Our tables can become sure signs of the Kingdom, where Jesus always makes room for one more.

I pray you experience Christ’s freedom and love as you invite the lonely, neglected, and shunned to dine at the table of Christmas fellowship.

Pastor Keith



*Children’s
Moment
And
The Hanging
of the Greens
With some
special
helpers!*



Worship



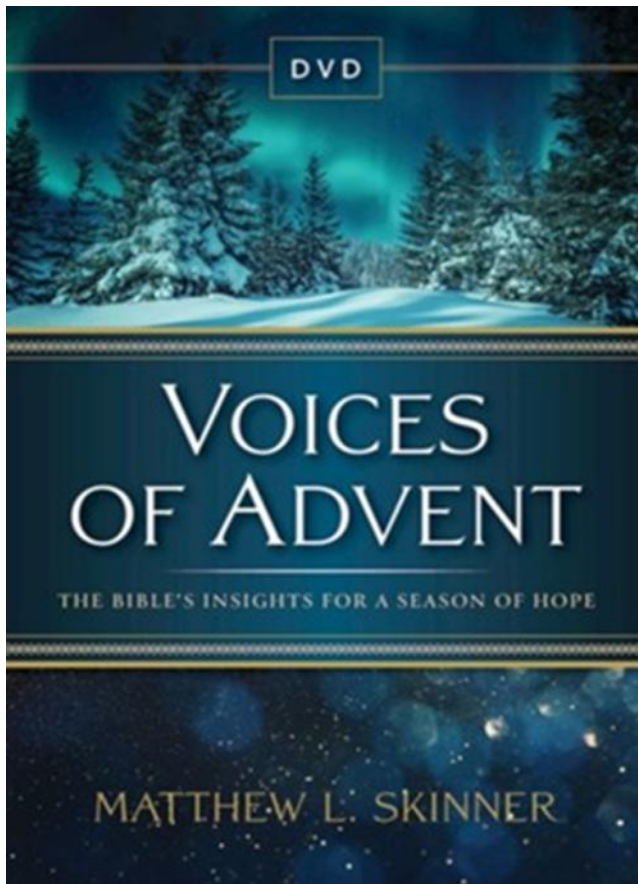
The Thanksgiving altar display provided for the Glory of God by Pete and Darla Hause.



We celebrated the baptism of Anderson Timothy Welby in November.



Bible Study



Adult Sunday School *Voices of Advent*

Matthew L. Skinner

- Matthew Skinner leads participants through biblical texts and explores how they shape our lives and Christmas celebrations. We listen as Jesus promises to return to us in the future, to John the Baptist as he prepares the way for the Messiah, to the faithful people and poets who anticipate the magnificence of Jesus's birth, and to the angels and visionaries who praise God when Christmas dawns. Listen carefully to the Bible's various perspectives that shape our preparations for Christmas; you'll hear hope in all of them.
- Join us in the library or on Zoom at 9:00 for this four-week series starting Sunday November 30, 2025.

Tuesday and Thursday Bible Study

Advent Study

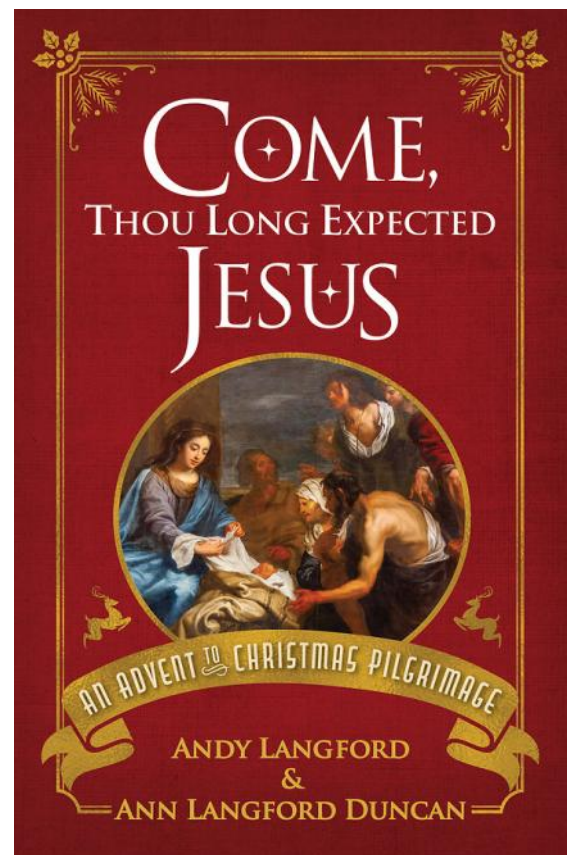
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Starting December, join us for the Advent study "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus."

The Christian year is fundamentally a roadmap for pilgrims, as biblical witnesses lead spiritually hungry people on a journey to receive the full riches of God's grace. During Advent, we take the first steps.

In *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*, Andy Langford and Ann Langford Duncan invite you on an Advent-to-Christmas pilgrimage to draw closer to Jesus and invite others to join you on this journey. Traditional Scripture readings and acts of worship reveal anew the treasures of God's grace for all people. Let this book guide you to open your heart to the priceless gifts of the good news. Start your pilgrimage today and experience the full riches of God's love.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study: 7PM
Thursday Morning Bible Study: 10am



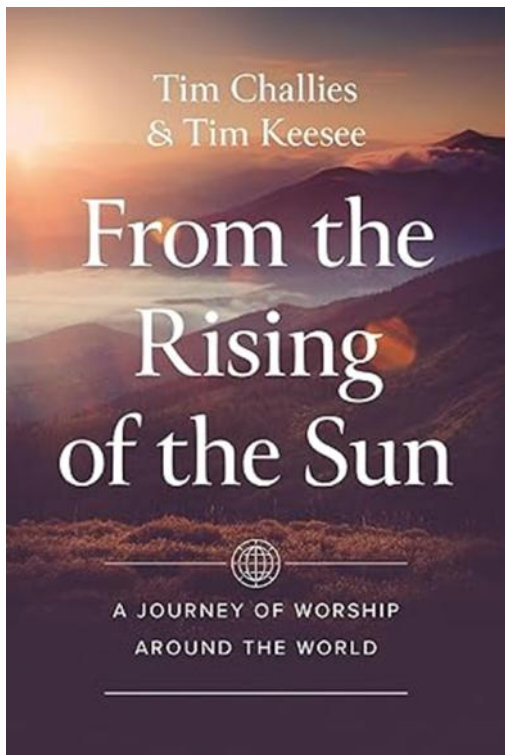
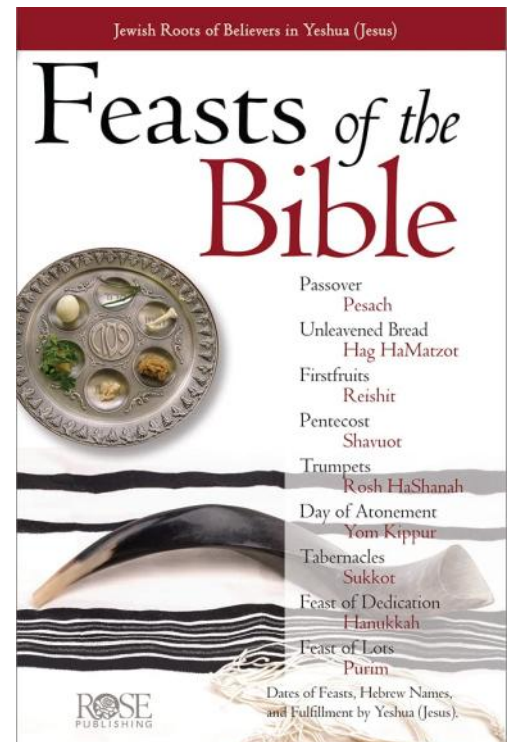
Tuesday and Thursday January Bible Study

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

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:

November 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.



***Young Adult/Youth
Ramen & Dumpling Party:
Sunday, December 14th***

Let's get together after the service! We'll gather
in the kitchen to prepare ramen and dumplings.
Wear your most atrocious Christmas sweater and
get ready to have fun!

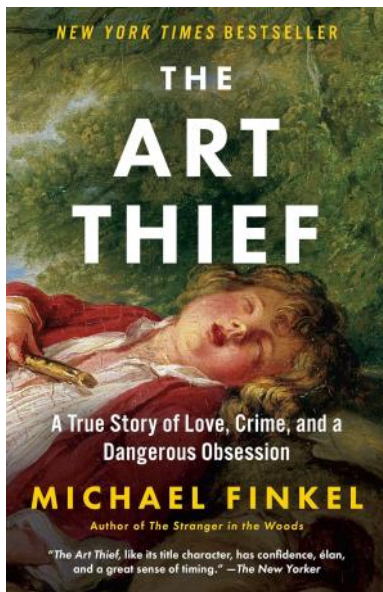


Fellowship



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



Christmas light and sound show at the Vine UMC on Gallows Road in Dunn Loring

<https://www.thevineva.org/event/vine-lights/>

Mobile Food Pantry: Next: December 9th

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!





Angel Tree for Kids Konnection DC

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for an "Angel" for Kids Konnection DC. Please remember:

All gifts are to be wrapped individually.

The gifts must be bundled in a big gift bag or tied together so they do not get separated.

Affix the Tree card with the child's name, number, and photo to the package in a way that enables us to see both sides of the card.

The final date of return is December 14th.
Teri comes the next day to pick them up.

Even 4 Others—EARLY

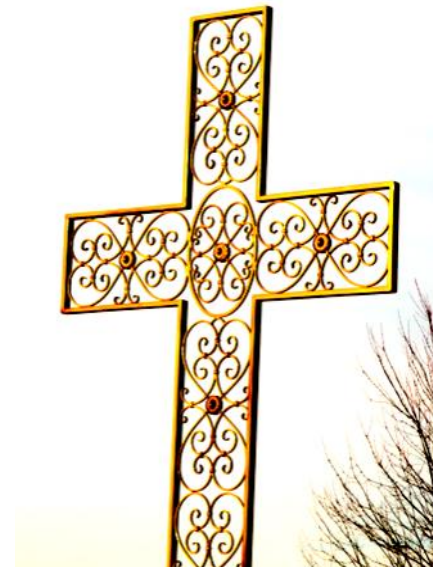
December 21st



EARLY - Even **3** Others for December. Please leave donations for LINK Against Hunger in a week early for the holiday! Place in the big wooden box in front of the office before 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 (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, soap).

**\$1070 TOTAL GROCERY CARDS
COLLECTED FOR LINK IN
NOVEMBER!!**



**College
Connection
Volunteers
work their
magic!**



CHURCH WORK! BEFORE



DURING



AFTER!



Dranesville

United Methodist Church

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

December

- 5 Office Closed
- 7 Holy Communion
Poinsettia orders due
- 9 Mobile Food Pantry
- 14 Lessons & Carols
Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
Youth/Young Adult Luncheon in the Kitchen
- 21 Even **3** Others Collection
- 24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm
- 25 Christmas Day
- 28 Special Guest Speaker—Rev. Mac McKenney

GIVE Online!



Dec 24-Jan 5 Office Closed

January

- 4 Holy Communion
New Year Brunch
- 11 Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 13 Mobile Food Pantry
- 14 DUMC Book Club 7pm
- 25 Grocery Card Collection

Every Week Join Us In Study and Prayer:

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 December 24—January 5