

Dranesville UMC Newsletter

September 2026

The Meal Train

Fall 2026 is starting and I'm excited for the congregation, students and teachers going back to school, and all the great things that happen during this time of the year. I'm expecting great things from our great Lord to work through our great congregation.

There's one thing that I want to mention regarding sharing meals with members in need. There are seasons in every life when the ordinary work of getting supper on the table becomes too much. A surgery. A new baby. A long illness, or the death of someone we love. Nothing is wrong with us in those weeks. We are simply carrying more than two hands can hold. Many of you have lived through a stretch like that, and you remember what it meant when someone appeared at the door with a warm dish and a kind word.

We want to continue this ministry for one another.

Over the past several months I have heard the same thing from a good number of you, said in different ways: let me know when somebody needs help, and I will be there. That willingness is one of the quiet gifts of this congregation. However, organizing it has been a little difficult.



So this fall we are beginning another way to share meals at Dranesville. When someone in our church family faces one of those seasons, please let me or other leaders know. Then our office will set up a meal schedule and send the details out by email. The link to

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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.*

The Meal Train (continued)

a website, www.mealtrain.com, will be shared. You will see which dates still need filling, any allergies or food preferences, and where to bring the meal.

The website, Meal Train (mealtrain.com), helps us to keep it all straight and simple. You choose an open date, you sign up, and the site sends you a reminder before your day arrives. No sign-up sheet passed down the pew, no three phone calls to find out whether Tuesday is already taken.



If websites are not your thing, please do not let that keep you away. Call the church office and we will put your name on the calendar ourselves. The cooking is the part that matters. We will handle the clicking.

Also if you know someone, a neighbor or friend or co-worker, who does not attend DUMC but is in need of meals, please let me know. I will be happy to bring a meal for them. It's a way to say hello and extend the grace of God to the community.

Thanks for being a congregation that keeps showing up, ministering and feeding one another with care.

Happy Autumn 2026!

Pastor Keith

PET BLESSING SUNDAY September 27TH AT 2:30PM

Bring your pet after church to our entrance on Sugarland Rd. A Blessing of Animals is an opportunity to recognize God's and the Church's love, care, and concern for creation and our mutual interdependence with God's creatures.



A Note of Thanks

Darla and I are blest to be part of a church that is loving and caring. We wish to express our gratitude for your visits, prayers, telephone calls, flowers, food and expressions of kindness during my recent health issues and the death of our beloved pet, Greta. Great strength comes from sharing one's love.

Blessings,

Pete and Darla Hause

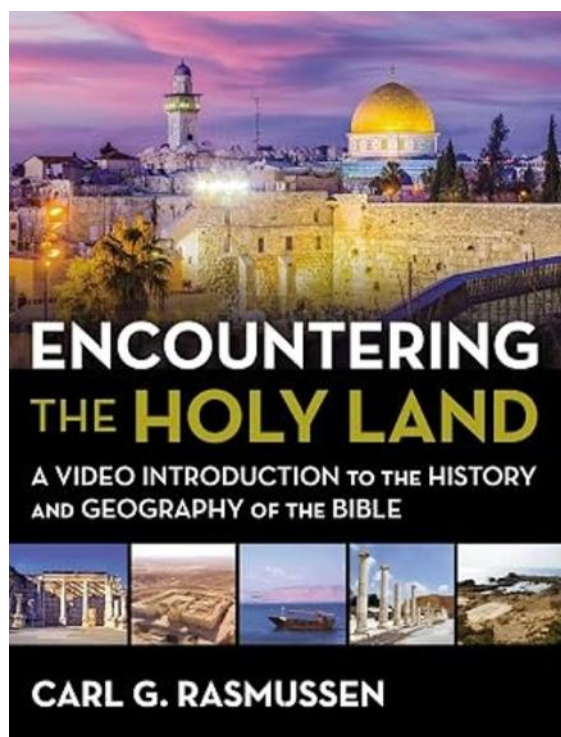
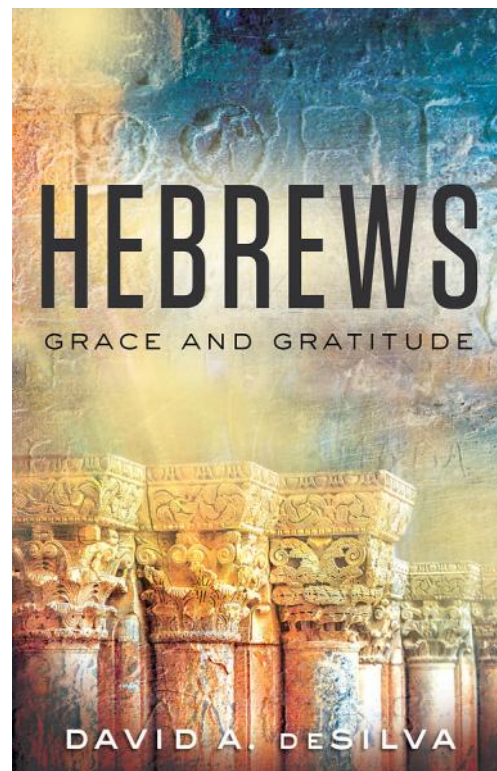
Bible Study

Dranesvilleumc.org/connect

**Tuesday Evening: 7pm OR
Thursday Morning: 10am**

The Book of Hebrews helps us see the connection between God's grace in our lives and the call to invest ourselves in God's mission in the world. In doing so, we express gratitude for the salvation we have received and respond to God's grace by being faithful to the One who delivers us.

In *Hebrews: Grace and Gratitude*, author and New Testament scholar David deSilva takes you through a study of Hebrews, tracing the themes of grace and gratitude through this unique New Testament book. In the Book of Hebrews, you will discover a bold perspective on who Jesus is and what he has done, as well as a powerful reflection on the meaning and significance of his death and resurrection in light of the Old Testament. As you read and study this letter, you will receive a deeper appreciation for the salvation we have received through Christ and hear afresh God's call to a life of gratitude and faithfulness.



Adult Sunday School

Join us in the library

or on Zoom at 9:00 am any Sunday!

Throughout *Encountering the Holy Land*, scholar Carl Rasmussen leads viewers through the Holy Lands to illuminate the geographical and historical context of biblical events. Destined to become a favorite guide to biblical geography for students of the Bible, this accessible set of video lessons will invite you into the world of the Bible as never before.

•Join us in the library or on Zoom at 9:00 for this 13-week series. Easy to join at any time.

Lunch with the Evergreen Group:



**September 13th at 12:00 pm
in Sterling**

at The Bungalow Lakehouse Restaurant.
The second Sunday each month!

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

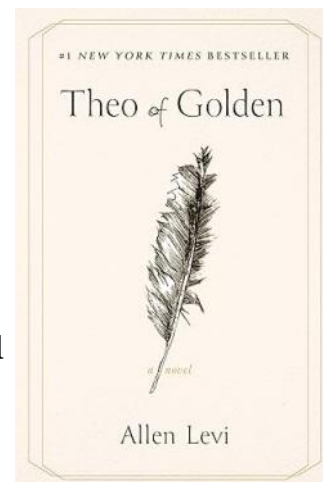
Wednesday Night Dinner September 16th @ 6pm

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

DUMC Book Club—September 9th

Dear Dranesville Book Group participants (and those who like to read along...) our next gathering is September 9th at 7:00pm, Contact [Beth Hitchings](#) for Zoom information.

September 9th Selection: *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi is the endearing story of a curious old man who quietly moves into a southern city and, for reasons unknown to anyone but himself, undertakes a campaign of anonymous generosity. Theo's love for people, combined with his fondness for books, art, birds, and story, unite in a colorful expression of outreach and affection. Stories are shared, friendships are born, and lives, in response to his inexplicable kindness, are affirmed and transformed. The old man, no stranger to sadness and loss, quickly becomes a welcome presence in the community, but his new friends and neighbors wonder, who is Theo? And why is he here? Beautifully written stories of kindness and neighborliness are always timely, but perhaps especially so now.



College Connections



Please contact Linda Strahan to let her know if you have a college student you would like to be included in our church's College Connections ministry to receive care packages through out the school year. Also, please update addresses for students already in the ministry if they have moved since last semester.

The Mower Replacement

We are so grateful to the mowing team for all of their work to keep up the church grounds! Recently one of our important tools, the exMark mower went down. If you would like to contribute funds to replace it, [please click here!](#)



Around the Church:

The Trustees have been hard at work—See what's new!



New Doorbells
and camera
system



New vanity and
paint job for the
bathroom in the
lower level!



Volunteer for the Mobile Food Pantry: Next: September 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.



**Thank you! 396 items collected for LINK
for August**

Grocery Card donations for September

This month please donate **grocery gift** cards from your favorite grocery store to give to families in need. Buy Grocery store cards \$25 or under so that LINK can include them in the grocery bags that are delivered to the families. **Contribute by September 27th.** To write a check, make the check payable to “Dranesville UMC” with “LINK” in the memo line.





The 31st Annual Gabriel Homes Golf Tournament

Register here:

www.gabrielhomes.org/get-involved/gabriel-homes-annual-golf-tournament/

Join us, Monday, September 21, 2026, for a beautiful day golfing & supporting adults with intellectual & developmental disabilities (IDD).

Dear Dranesville United Methodist Church,

I thank each of you for supporting this year's tournament. We could not keep up the great work of Gabriel Homes without you. Please join myself, our board members, staff, and residents on Monday, September 21, 2026, for a fun day for a great cause.

Blessings,
Msgr. Bob Cilinski
Gabriel Homes Board of Directors



THE CLOSET GAMBLER'S DISCOUNT SEASONAL CHANGEOVER SALE

SEPTEMBER 3
75% OFF TOTAL PURCHASE

SEPTEMBER 4
\$5 BAG SALE
DONATIONS CLOSED

ALL SALES FINAL

SEPTEMBER 5
THE CLOSET'S 4TH ANNUAL FASHION SHOW
+ EARLY ACCESS SHOPPING
Fall/Winter Merchandise

SEPTEMBER 7
CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 8
FALL/WINTER MERCHANDISE
Available to the Rest of The Closet Community





Dranesville

United Methodist Church

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

September

- 2 Parent's Night Out
- 3 Choir & Bell practice begins
- 6 Holy Communion
- 8 Mobile Food Pantry
- 9 BookClub 7pm in the library or on zoom
- 13 Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
4pm Finance Committee
- 16 Wednesday Night Community Dinner
- 20 Guest speaker: William “Mac” McKenny
- 27 Grocery Card Collection
12pm Church Council Meeting
2:30 Blessing of the Pets

October

- 4 Holy Communion
- 11 Guest speaker: Beth Hitchings
Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm
- 13 Mobile Food Pantry
- 16 Gabriel House Boo Bash
- 21 Wednesday Night Community Dinner
- 25 Even 4 Others Collection

GIVE Online!



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 mailing office@dranesvilleumc.org or leave a message at 703-430-3137 anytime.

Office hours: Tuesday—Friday 8:00 am—12:30 pm