

Dranesville UMC Newsletter

October 2026

October Stewardship Drive

Our God is generous. Our God is so good that He does something no king, no banker, and no rich man has ever done. He takes on the debt of those who can't pay. Proverbs 19:17 declares, "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay them for their deeds." When we feed the hungry, God says, "Put it on my account." When we clothe someone who's cold, God says, "I'll take that one." When we sit with the lonely, God says, "I owe you." When we house the homeless, God's enriched. When we contribute to the life of His congregation, He's with us.

You would think the Lord of heaven and earth, who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, would not need a thing from us. Why would God put Himself in a vulnerable position by taking on the debt of the poorest and the most needy?

There's a good reason for that. God's promises are far-reaching. God declares that He protects the orphans, the widows, the poor, and the sick. God wants to restore earth to its original design. God's promises to His creation must be fulfilled. He owes the world His love, kindness, grace, mercy, and justice. St. Augustine said it this way: "God, who owes no one anything, makes Himself a debtor by His promises."

Therefore, He's inviting His children to fulfill His obligations. In His graciousness, He frames it as "lending to the Lord," as if God's in need.

This was the Hebrew Bible's approach. But Jesus takes this a step further, a lot further. When



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message	1
Pet Blessing	2
Bible Study	3
Fellowship Gatherings	4
More Fellowship	5
Lawn Mower Fund	6
Around the Church	7
LINK Against Hunger	7
More Missions	8
The Closet	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.*

October Stewardship Drive (continued)

we meet the needs of the most vulnerable, it's not about lending to God but about helping God. Jesus said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Wow, now we're not just lending to God but helping, assisting, supporting God. This is a radical concept. Creatures helping the Creator. It's a very difficult concept to comprehend, but God invites us into this endeavor.

At Dranesville, we see almsgiving as direct material help, within the "lending to God" framework. Our work with LINK and The Closet is almsgiving in the most literal biblical sense. But we also help the hidden poor. There are many in our area who don't qualify for public assistance, so they need occasional help when they can't cover emergency bills, such as utility or grocery bills. The Pastor's Emergency Fund is directed at helping in these situations.

Then almsgiving should also be seen as the loving presence of Jesus on earth. Our congregation offers a place of relationships, activities, encouragement, teachings and gatherings in Christ. We're a community that represents the loving reign of God.

Another way to see almsgiving is through offering our church facilities to groups like the Scouts, the Girl Scouts, AART, and Gabriel Homes.

In other words, meeting the needs of the community is an expanded way of lending to God so that His promises and covenant are fulfilled on earth. October is our Stewardship month. Throughout the month, the finance team will report on all the ways Dranesville UMC has impacted the lives of the members and all those we serve. They also talk about debt reduction, endowment and legacy giving plans that will help our congregation to fulfill the promises of God on earth. Thanks so much for your generosity to the Lord. We're grateful for your support and contributions.

With much gratitude,
Pastor Keith



PET BLESSING SUNDAY October 4th 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.

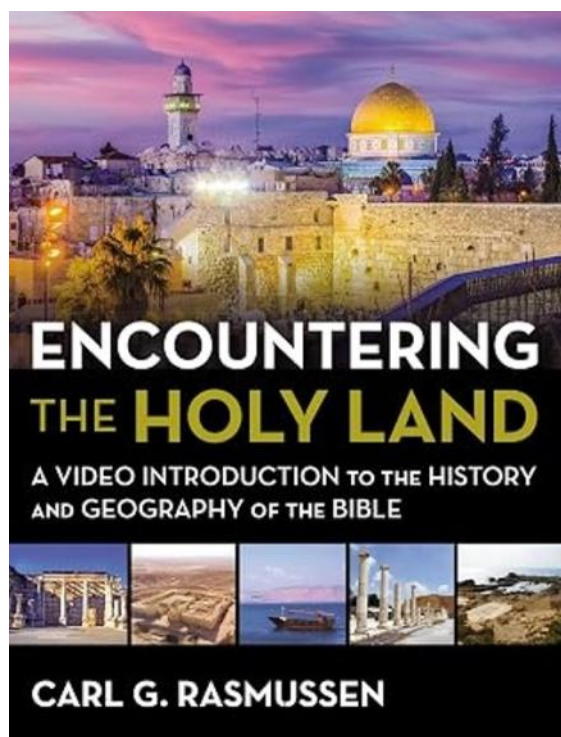
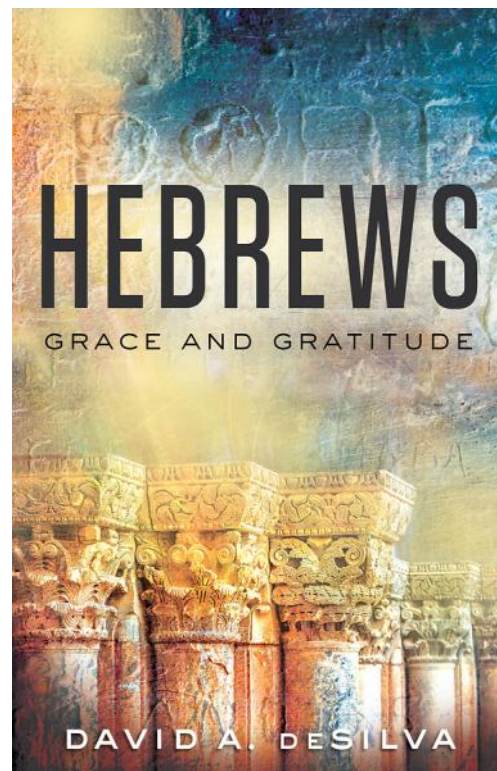
Bible Study

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:



**October 11th at 12:00 pm
in Sterling**

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

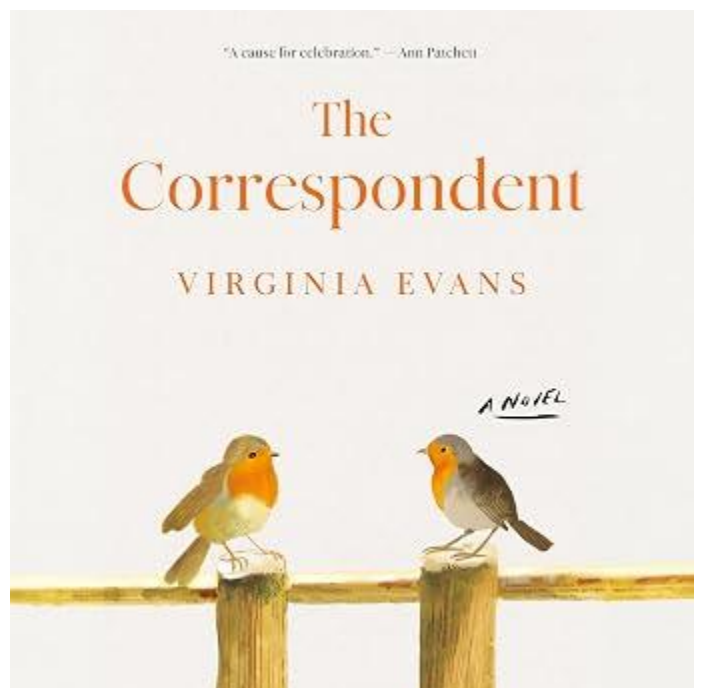
Please see Pete Hause for details and to RSVP
or call 703-430-7166.



DUMC Book Club—November 11th

Dear Dranesville Book Group participants (and those who like to read along...) our next gathering is November 11th at 7:00pm, Contact Beth Hitchings: layleader@dranesvilleumc.org for Zoom information.

Dranesville UMC's Book Group enjoyed Theo of Golden by Allen Levi, specifically the theme of grace demonstrated over and over again by the main character. The Book Group will meet in the church Library or on Zoom. The next selection is Virginia Evans' novel, The Correspondent. The Correspondent is an epistolary novel told through letters and emails. It follows a retired lawyer whose lifelong habit of letter-writing shapes the narrative. Join us for an evening of good fellowship and discussion!



Wednesday Night Dinner October 21st@ 6pm

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

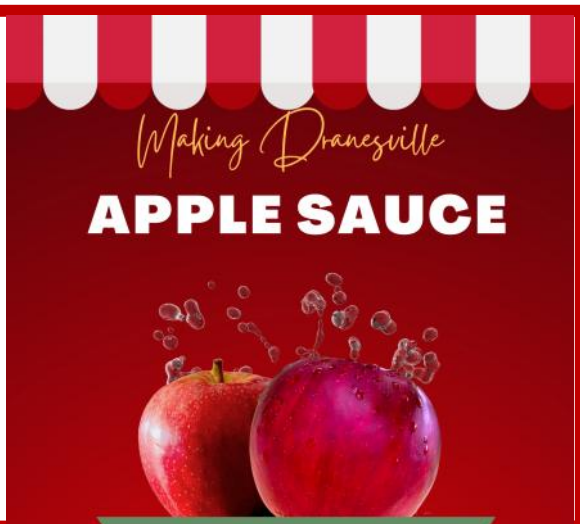
**And Happy 50th
Anniversary of
bringing Music
to the UMC!**

SUSAN

Annual Applesauce Making

Join us for Dranesville UMC's annual Applesauce making event right after Worship on October 18th. We'll serve lunch as well. Lend a hand or just join us for fellowship! Questions?

Contact Beth Hitchings (layleader@dranesvilleumc.org)
or Karen Rizzo (karenrizzo25@gmail.com).



The Mower Replacement Fund Success!

The mowing team is so grateful for your generosity! We found a brand new mower that we were able to purchase with your donations. Welcome to the new Bad Boy Raider machine! DUMC's new Bad Boy 48" Raider mower has been purchased and is now in the shed at church. The ExMark has been "donated" to Sterling Mower, who will drain the oil and gasoline before potentially recycling it. Please let us know if you would like to join in and learn together how to operate this new mower!



Security Cameras Installed at DUMC

Recent incidents involving unacceptable behavior, vandalism, and unauthorized entry to the building have caused the Trustees to review security measures to protect our property and the authorized users of the building. After some study and discussion, it was felt that installing security cameras around the building exterior was an effective means to monitor activity on the driveways, parking lots and grounds. The intent of these cameras is to detect people and cars as they approach the building and record those events for review by appropriate officials.

We have installed eleven cameras overlooking the rear parking lot, the dumpster, narthex entry, approach to the lower-level doors, the area between the Education Wing and the cell tower, the outside of the sanctuary and the cemetery, and doorbell cameras for the Portico and Fellowship Hall entry doors. Future installations will provide interior surveillance of the entrances to the building.

If anyone has any questions about the cameras, please contact Pastor Keith, Laurie Barr, or Bill Bliven.



**Grocery Cards \$240 collected
in September for LINK**



EVEN 4 OTHERS collection

NEXT COLLECTION: October 25th

Please donate for LINK Against Hunger. Leave donations in the big wooden box in front of the office before church on the 4th Sunday of even months. They will be counted and transported to the LINK location after church. Donate canned goods, dry goods, paper goods, cleaning products, and personal toiletry items.



Volunteer for the Mobile Food Pantry: Next: October 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.





The
Closet

OF THE GREATER HERNDON AREA, INC.

PRESENTS

Everything Christmas

Your first stop for Christmas and seasonal items
for holiday décor, gifts, entertaining, and toys.

Friday, October 16 ✂ 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 17 ✂ 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Moose Lodge, 779 Center Street, Herndon, VA

Proceeds are returned to the community as grants and scholarships!



Dranesville

United Methodist Church

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

October

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 4 | Holy Communion
Galilee Dreamers Send Off
Pet Blessing @ 2:30pm |
| 11 | Guest speaker: Beth Hitchings
Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm |
| 13 | Mobile Food Pantry |
| 16 | Gabriel House Boo Bash |
| 16-17 | Everything Christmas at The Closet |
| 18 | Annual Apple Sauce Making Event |
| 21 | Wednesday Night Community Dinner
Church Charge Conference |
| 25 | Even 4 Others Collection |

GIVE Online!

November

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Holy Communion |
| 8 | Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm |
| 10 | Mobile Food Pantry |
| 11 | Book Club 7pm |
| 18 | Wednesday Night Community Dinner |
| 22 | Grocery Card Collection
Hanging of the Greens |
| 29 | 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 mailing office@dranesvilleumc.org or leave a message at 703-430-3137 anytime.

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