# Dranesville UMC Newsletter

## November 2026

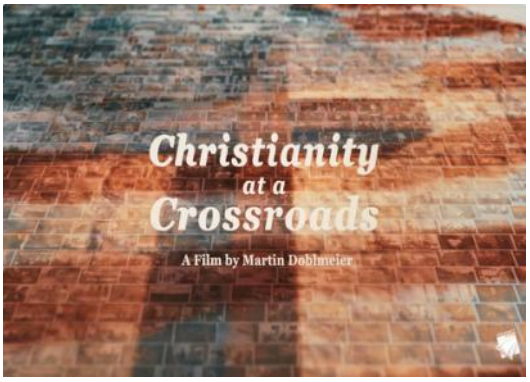
## *Sharing God*

I want to be honest with you. I truly believe Dranesville UMC is a wonderful gem. I love the members, the music, the leadership, the way we do food ministry, outreach, the whole enchilada. You can tell I'm very happy with our church in the way I show up every day especially on Sundays. It's no secret.

I wish everyone could worship here. And that's what I want to talk about in this article, inviting others into the life, fellowship and love here at Dranesville. I really want more people to experience the care we share here.

**Why Invite?**

Some people call this evangelism or sharing your faith. Whatever terms we've used before, I would like to offer another perspective. Inviting others to join our church should be a natural extension of the love we have for Jesus. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and others. I can't see any better way to obey this commandment than to invite people in our community so that we can know God, love others, and serve those less fortunate than us in the community.




Let me tell you about something small that pointed us in a good direction. This summer we hosted Vacation Bible School, and through it we got to know JL, a parent who lives near the church. She talked with us about what families in our neighborhood actually need, and she offered several ideas. One of them was a movie night for back to school. We tried it, and about fifteen children came. Nothing elaborate. Just an evening our

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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.*


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# Sharing God (continued)

neighbors wanted, and one we were able to give.

This interaction showed us Dranesville's ability to meet real needs in the neighborhood and let them know about the love of God. I believe it to be a positive sign of growth.

**What We Are Already Doing**

The truth is we are already doing this. VBS and Movie Night happened because volunteers said yes. Our doors are open to community groups, our outreach ministries are active, and new faces have found a home here.

**A Year of Learning Together**

So I would like us to spend the coming year thinking together about strengthening that process of growth. Not a program to launch by spring, but a year of learning and discovery.

First, conversations at council. I would like to set aside time at our meetings to talk about what we are already noticing.

Second, visits to other churches. There are congregations near us doing thoughtful work, and there is no substitute for sitting in someone else's sanctuary and seeing how they welcome people.

Third, guest speakers who can teach us. There are people in our conference and beyond who have something worth saying to a congregation our size. I have the former pastor of Christ Church in Fairfax City, John Speight, lined up to speak to us in February.

Fourth, articles and videos we read and watch together. Short pieces, shared ahead of time, so we come to the table with something in common to discuss.

Here's one to start with, a little homework. Go to YouTube and search "Christianity at a Crossroad" by NPR. Here's the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=670ibbWIkrs&t=199s

This is a great way to understand where we are as a movement of Jesus in the 21st century in North America. It should help us in our effort to share the Good News of Jesus to our friends and family.

**Looking Ahead**

We have a gem here at Dranesville and we have a duty to share it with others. I keep thinking about a story in 2 Kings 7. During a siege that left Samaria starving, four men with leprosy sat outside the city gate. Facing death either way, they went to the enemy Aramean camp and found it deserted. The Lord had caused the Arameans to flee in a panic, leaving behind their food and possessions.

The lepers went from tent to tent, eating and drinking their fill and carrying off silver, gold, and clothing. But then they stopped and looked at one another. "We're not doing right," they said. "This is a day of good news, and we are keeping it to ourselves" (2 Kings 7:9). So the four outcasts went back to the city and called out to the gatekeepers, telling them what they had found. Because of their report, the whole starving city came out and found more than enough food for everyone.

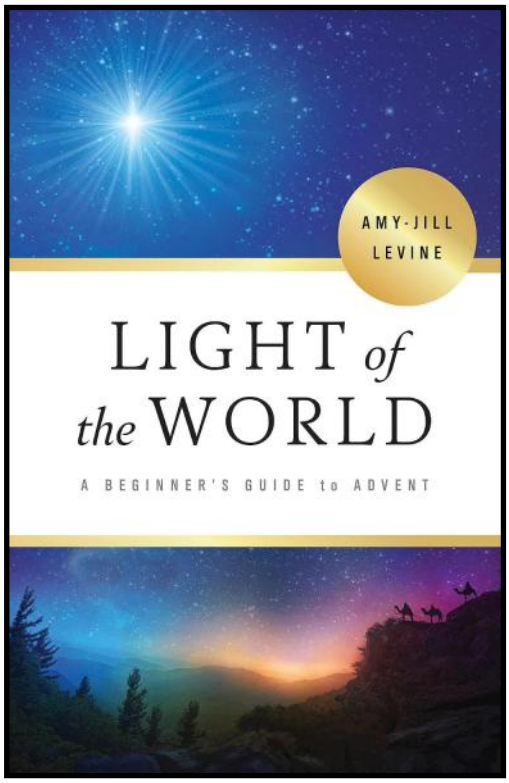
Like those four outcasts, our job is to tell others where to find the Bread of Life!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Keith

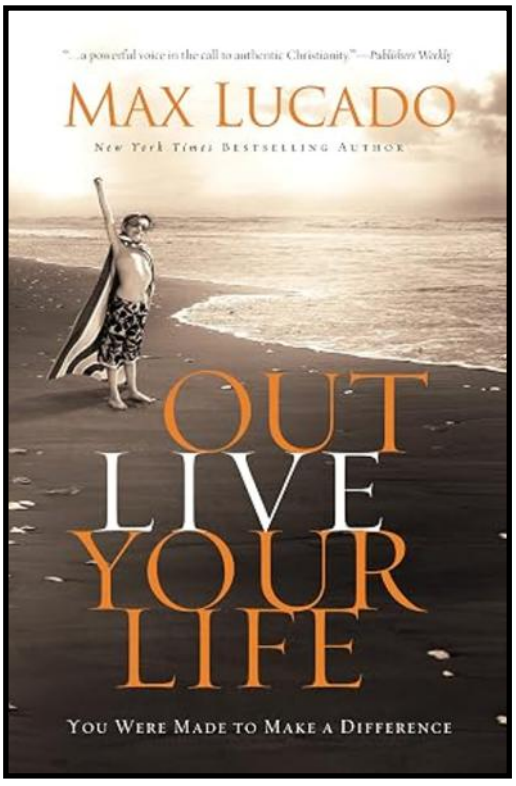
# Bible Study

Dranesvilleumc.org/connect

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




Advent is not only the perfect time to read the story of the birth of Jesus; it's also a great time to dive deeper into the biblical texts that surround the event. In *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join her as she traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt.




## Adult Sunday School

### Outlive Your Life

### Max Lucado

These are devastating times: 1.75 billions people are desperately poor; one billion are hungry. Lonely hearts indwell our neighborhoods and attend our schools. In the midst of it all, here we stand: you, me, and our one-of-a-kind lives. We are given a choice ... an opportunity to make a big difference during a difficult time. What if we did? What if we rocked the world with hope?

Max Lucado asks:  Worth a try, don't you think? Please join us at 9:00 on Sundays in the Library starting on Sunday 01 November 2026.  Please contact Ed to connect via Zoom.

# Fellowship

## Lunch with the Evergreen Group:

EVERGREEN
Lunch Group

**November 8th at 12:00 pm**
in Sterling
at The Bungalow Lakehouse Restaurant.
The second Sunday each month!

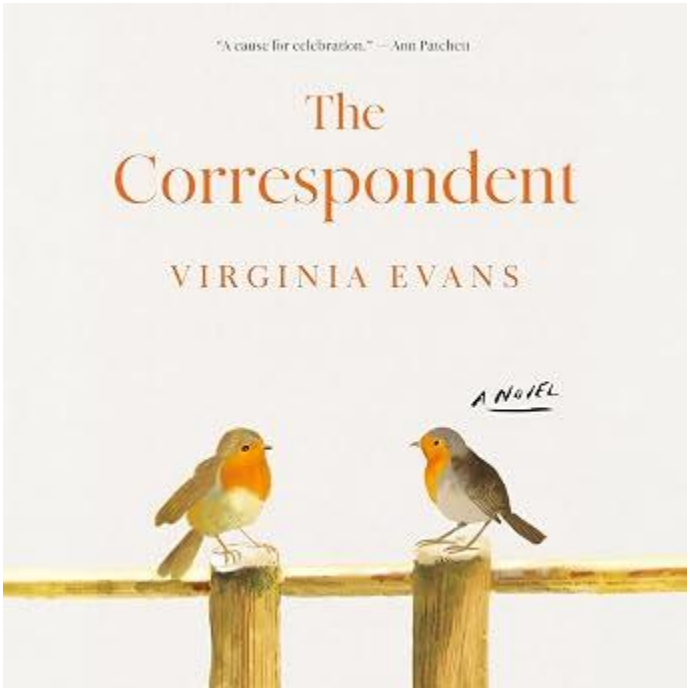
Please see Pete Hause for details and to RSVP or call 703-430-7166.




## 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!



# PET BLESSING SUNDAY

After some rain delays we finally were able to bring our pets after church for A Blessing of Animals. What a great opportunity to meet and recognize our companions and share God's love, care, and concern for God's creatures.

















# November Wednesday Community Breakfast at Egg Karne

Instead of Dinner in November, we will be meeting at Egg Karne for breakfast at 10:00am on Wednesday November 18th. Egg Carne is located at the Herndon Centennial Golf Course 909 Ferndale Ave Herndon, VA 20170
Please RSVP to Donna Carlo 703 244-2911 or mdgirlinva@yahoo.com

**In December, we will have a Potluck Christmas Brunch on Sunday December 13th** after the Cantata. No Wednesday Night Community Dinner in December




















# Dranesville Annual Applesauce Making!











# College Connections





# Volunteer for the

# Mobile Food Pantry: Next: November 10th

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.









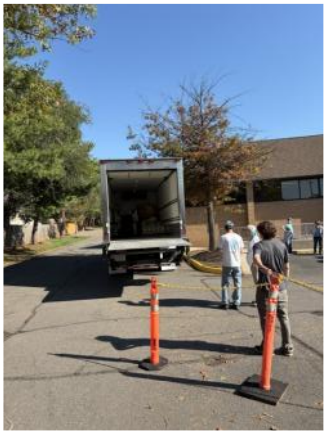

















# Volunteer for the
# Mobile Food Pantry:  More Opportunities!









Link has expanded to a second food distribution each month. Our crack team of mesh bag makers is generating enough that we can now supply that as well!  Here are some pictures of the bags at work and a group of packers from last week's distribution at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

## Grocery Cards 512 items collected in October for LINK

## EVEN 4 OTHERS collection

### NEXT COLLECTION: November 22nd

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.



# Dranesville

## United Methodist Church

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

**November**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Holy Communion |
| 7 | Herndon Bell Festival |
| 8 | Evergreen Lunch at 12:00 pm |
| 10 | Mobile Food Pantry |
| 11 | Book Club 7pm |
| 18 | Wednesday Breakfast |
| 22 | Grocery Card Collection |
| | Hanging of the Greens |
| 25-12/1 | Office closed |
| 29 | First Sunday of Advent |

**December**

| | |
|---|---|
| 6 | Holy Communion |
| 8 | Mobile Food Pantry |
| 13 | Cantata |
| | Christmas Brunch after Worship |
| 20 | Even 4 Others |
| | Evergreen Lunch at 12:00pm |
| 24 | Christmas Eve Service |
| 25-1/4 | Office closed |

GIVE Online!



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

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