

Damascus Methodist Church
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Damascus, OH 44619

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Pastor Jon Long 330-323-7066
Sunday School: 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M.

Fax (330) 537-3032
Church Website: www.dmc.church
SALT Youth Group - Sunday 6-8pm

“Damascus Doings”

December 2024

TO LIVE FOR CHRIST IS TO STRIVE FOR HOLINESS AND SEEK THE LOST





December 2024 Newsletter: Pastors Moment “Happy Birthday”

Isaiah 9: 1-7 “Hope in the Messiah”

Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory. The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice.

They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest and like warriors dividing the plunder. For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders. You will break the oppressor’s rod, just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian. The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will all be burned.

*They will be fuel for the fire. For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His government and its peace will never end.*

He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!

When I reflect on my life as a Husband, Father, and Minister, I often search my heart for the right words and emotions to offer insight and wisdom for the Love of God for all his people as inspiration for the Holiday Season. Silly Me, all I need to do is seek his word and the “Poetry of Love” is already given.

Beloved, the perfect Christmas gift has already been given. The greatest blessing that we can give to others is the gift of God’s Love through his son and our savior, Jesus Christ. So, as we head into the Glorious Christmas Season and New Year, may we follow the will of the Lord and simply “Speak Jesus” to all whom we are blessed to encounter. The greatest blessing we can offer is the reflection of Jesus in our lives so that the World will know that Emmanuel is with us! By God’s Grace & Love each of us are given a pathway of Salvation through Jesus Christ! May this Christmas Season be on of Peace, Joy, Hope, & Love in each of us together as Christ’s Church!

Wishing You All A Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Jon & Jenny Long

SALT YOUTH MINISTRY

Everyone in the world longs to belong. It doesn’t matter where you were born, what language you speak, or what you believe. Everyone wants to ‘fit’ somewhere. Everyone wants to be loved. This was the message given by Doug Raraigh, a local pastor from the Pittsburgh area, at the 2024 Fall Super Charge Conference that the youth recently attended. Doug spoke during four sessions which built upon this theme. Friday night’s message was “Do You Know My Name”? He spoke to the youth specifically about Zacchaeus, whom Jesus knew by name. The youth were asked about a time in their lives when they were recognized by name and how that made them feel. How did they think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus called him by name?

Saturday morning’s message was “Do You Know Where I Live (And, What Matters to Me)”. Is it hard to let people “in” to know you – at school or in your neighborhood? How can youth get to know other youth and understand their points of view and what it’s like to walk in their shoes? Saturday evening’s message was “Do You Know What I’ve Done”? Sharing a letter from Paul, the youth were asked if they ever wanted to do the right thing, yet chose to do the wrong thing? Had they ever asked God for forgiveness? Why is it important for them to have a trusted and mature believer to talk to?

Finally, Sunday morning’s message was “Do You Know What I Can Do”? Sometimes teens can feel trapped in a world of constantly being told what to do. The youth were asked if there was a time when someone encouraged them. Youth leaders were asked what words of encouragement had we or could we share with youth. In other words, how can we “speak life” to each other?

There isn’t enough room to speak of all the fun the youth had during free time, but they enjoyed driving ATVs, fishing, laser tag, paint ball, driving golf balls, horseback riding, and finding their way through a corn maze at night by flashlight – to name a few! Friendships were forged and many memories were made!

The youth and youth leaders wish you all a joyous and spirit-filled celebration of our Savior’s birth! Spread His love this holiday season and throughout the coming year! Help others know that they too have a place to “belong” in Jesus.

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
1 Corinthians 1:9

Blessings, Linda Henderson





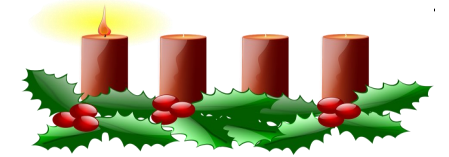
Thanks to all our Veterans for their Service!
May you all have a very Merry Christmas!



World Peace, Government officials around the world
First responders, front line workers, military, veterans and their families
Family of Eileen Bush
Family of Pat Frank (Donna Lutz’s sister)
Family of Scott Kurena
Janice Bennett with hospice at Copeland Oaks (welcomes visitors)
Pauline Wayne at Blossom in Salem for Rehab
Jeanine Lamos dealing with Covid
Holiday Travel Mercies
Continued health prayers for Jan Zielke, Sally Wilson, Gayla Linder

Join us for Advent Services:

10:00 am each Sunday



Theme: “ A Journey to the Nativity”

Sunday 12/1 “Are You Out There?”

12/8 “We Have to Go Where?”

12/15 “Do Not Be Afraid” plus Children’s Program

12/22 “I Bring You Good News for ALL PEOPLE”

12/24 Eve Service: 6:30 pm “He is with Us”

“One Call” phone number changes/additions:

One Call is the way a lot of information is shared regarding our church and church family...prayer requests, events, meeting reminders, among many other things. Although you can be added to or have your phone number changed anytime throughout the year, **December is when the One Call** system is completely updated for the following year. We wanted to remind you, if you would like to change or add your home and/or cell telephone number (s) within the One Call system **please fill out a Phone Number Change form** located in the information rack in the narthex. Please return it to Amy Shoaff or the church office. Thank you.

Copies of the DMC Leadership Index for 2025 can be found on the wall in Narthex





OUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM IS ALMOST HERE!

SUNDAY, DEC. 15 DURING 10:00 SERVICE

It's that time of year again! It's time for our annual Christmas program! This is such an exciting time of year. The kids and youth will be presenting **Miracle On Main Street** on Sunday, December 15, during the worship service. Come and enjoy this music-filled message that puts a unique twist on the telling of the Christmas story. We have a lot of kids, youth, and adults from the smallest to the tallest that have been practicing for weeks to prepare for this day! Invite your friends and neighbors to hear the Message proclaimed loud and clear! A special thank you to the adults who are participating in this special service, and to the parents and grandparents who are bringing their kids to the practices. And thank you, church family for supporting our program. The kids have all been doing a super job and are truly excited to share the Good News!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK A HUGE SUCCESS!!!

Thank you, church family for your wonderful support of Operation Christmas Child! Even as you are reading this, millions of shoeboxes are being processed and prepped for transport to continue their journey!

Praise God for the 393 shoeboxes filled here at DMC! As a local drop-off, we collected, cartonized, and delivered 120 cartons containing 1,784 shoeboxes to the central drop-off in Poland, Ohio. We are so thrilled to hear they collected 12,336!!!

Please continue to pray for these Gospel opportunity shoeboxes as they continue on their journey to a special child God has chosen to receive this gift.

We have already begun shopping and preparing for next year's shoeboxes! Please keep make note of our monthly donation list! **This month, we are collecting stuffed animals!**

The Dollar Tree has some really nice sized ones in the Christmas section! Remember, all items need to be brand new! A special fund is established for Operation Christmas Child. Please prayerfully consider giving to this throughout the year so that we are able to pack even more shoeboxes!
In Christ, Your OCC Team

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY

Come and join us for a special celebration on Sunday, Dec. 22 during junior church and wee worship! We will come together and enjoy a

Happy Birthday party for Jesus!

*** Please note that we will NOT be having Sunday School on Dec. 22.

Come and enjoy our church family breakfast!

From your Lay Leader ...

Christmas is a Time for Family Discussions December 2024

I was recently almost discussing politics with a mature-in-the-faith Christian that I very much respect. I say almost because, while the subject sort-of came up, we were not talking politics and that part of the conversation did not last long at all – not because it needed to end by any means, just because we were departing company for the evening. We both know that we can discuss absolutely anything and we will remain friends. Anyway, the comment that I remember was “I voted for Jesus”. Of course, voting in a way that aligns with Jesus should always be our goal. Unfortunately, national politics really doesn't seem to leave “voting for Jesus” as an option. What we absolutely should not do is vote for any person. We are all flawed and it's no secret that politicians are not left out of the flawed category. We should instead vote based on prayer and policies that might help keep us free to practice our faith. There will be a time when practicing the Christian Faith is restricted or down-right illegal. It has happened to our ancestors in the faith and it will happen again, if not in our generation, certainly within the next few.

Sorry, I did not intend to break out into a political discussion. Thank God, that season is over for now. However, with Christmas coming and having just celebrated Thanksgiving, we all are aware that our family members may not share our political views. More importantly though, we should be aware and praying for opportunities to be there for family members that are not yet saved. Jesus showed us many times just how important it is to show people how to have forgiveness, even to the point of being uncomfortable. Join me as we pray for opportunities, this Christmas season to plant seeds to all of those around us no matter what the cost. Pray that we know that The Holy Spirit has prepared ways for us to talk to those that we will be near this year. Leading people to Jesus should be our highest priority. It is that important.

Luke 15:1-7 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent .

Steven Sprague – Lay Leader

stevespra@gmail.com 216-789-4650



Birthdays

- 12/1 Bradley Dettweiler
- 12/4 Joey Sprague
- 12/5 Hannah Sprague
- 12/5 Weston Weingart
- 12/8 Shirley Steer
- 12/10 Sophia Gilbert
- 12/11 Bonnie McDermott
- 12/12 Dave Grissom
- 12/13 Richard Stoffer
- 12/15 Ray Heverly, Sr.
- 12/18 Landon Coffee
- 12/18 Debbie Hawk
- 12/19 Nikki Beagle
- 12/23 Kayla Crouse
- 12/25 Holly Morrow
- 12/27 Alan Cope
- 12/27 Connor Linder

Please inform the church office if your birthday or anniversary has ever been omitted from the Damascus Doings!

Counters

Kathy Knoedler & Jane Menough

Bus Driver

Steve Sprague

Children’s Rotation

Sunday

School*Combined**

- 12/1 Brittany Sprague/
Shaunda Uphold
- 12/8 Lois Niederhiser/
Linda Henderson
- 12/15 PROGRAM
- 12/22 All Church
Breakfast
- 12/29 Brittany S/
Shaunda Uphold

Junior Church

- 12/1 Program Practice
- 12/8 Program Prac
- 12/15 PROGRAM
- 12/22 Happy Birthday
Jesus Party
- 12/29 Troy Uphold/
Jahmaray Williams

Wee Worship

- 12/1 Program Prac
- 12/8 Program Prac
- 12/15 PROGRAM
- 12/22 Happy Birthday
Jesus Party
- 12/29 Shaunda Uphold

Nursery

- 12/1 Amy Shoaff
- 12/8 Samara Anderson
- 12/15 Terrie Rohrer
- 12/22 Denise Linder
- 12/29 Abby Heverly

Acolytes

- 12/1 Addie Zion/Elise
Smith
- 12/8 Triston Beagle/
Maxon Weingart
- 12/15 NONE
- 12/22 Lane Loving/
Stella Smith
- 12/29 Kara Zion/Addie
Zion

Anniversaries

- 12/1 Brian & Becky
Pinkerton
- 12/5 Andrew & Jackie
McFarlane
- 12/26 Dick & Shirley
Stoffer
- 12/30 Daryl & April
Dettweiler
- 12/30 Rich & Jean Yoder



Light up Damascus Festivities Saturday, December 14th
Annual Craft Show at DMC, plus Story Time with St. Nick,
Lego & Duplo Contest, Lunch and Cookie Counter
and New for 2024:

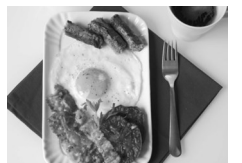
“The Christmas Float”

Please see Pastor Jon if you are willing to help with any of
these events!

Breakfast Notes

This Month will be our last breakfast until after the **Kitchen renovations** are completed. We are extremely blessed to be able to better our facility for use to witness through FOOD. The new addition and upgrades will allow us to better serve our Community and Congregation! We couldn’t be more excited! Our thanks go to the Trustees for their extremely hard work and long hours they have put into making this dream happen. **The Breakfast** has been going for over 20 years now and has been able to share our Church’s love and FAITH with thousands of local people. We hope to continue that for years to come. Please come and share with us on December 21st ! And don’t forget **WE WILL BE BACK ASAP BETTER THAN EVER!!!!**

Community Breakfast DMC
Saturday December 21st
7-10:30 am Donations Only



DAMASCUS METHODIST CHURCH



December 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 SS 9, Worship 10:00 NO Salt Youth	2	3 8:30 am WB Ministerial 6-7:30 pm Play Practice 7:00 pm Choir Practice	4	5 9:30 am TOPS 6:30 Adult Bible Study	6	7 8:30-11:30 am TOPS Workshop
8 SS 9, Worship 10 Salt 6-8 pm	9	10 5:30-7:30 pm Pizza party then Dress Rehearsal for program	11	12 9:30 am TOPS 6:30 Bible Study	13 Set up for Craft Show	14 9:30-11 Dress Rehearsal Light Up Damascus Craft Show, cookies, Parade with DMC
15 Worship 10 Children's Program Salt 6-8 pm	16 NO COUNCIL MTG	17 7:00 pm Choir Practice	18	19 9:30 am TOPS 6:30 pm Bible Study	20	21 7-10:30 am Breakfast
22 Christmas Breakfast Buffet 8:30-9:45 am Jesus Birthday Party Worship 10	23 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg	24 Office Closed 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed	26 9:30 am TOPS Blood Drive 1-6pm	27	28
29 SS 9, Worship 10 No Salt Youth	30	31 New Year's Eve				