

Damascus United Methodist Church
PO Box 307 (300 Valley Road)
Damascus, OH 44619

Church (330) 537-3031

Email: office@dumcohoio.org

Pastor John Fitch: Phone: 419-651-7244

Sunday School: 9:00 A.M.

Worship 10:00 A.M.

Fax (330) 537-3032

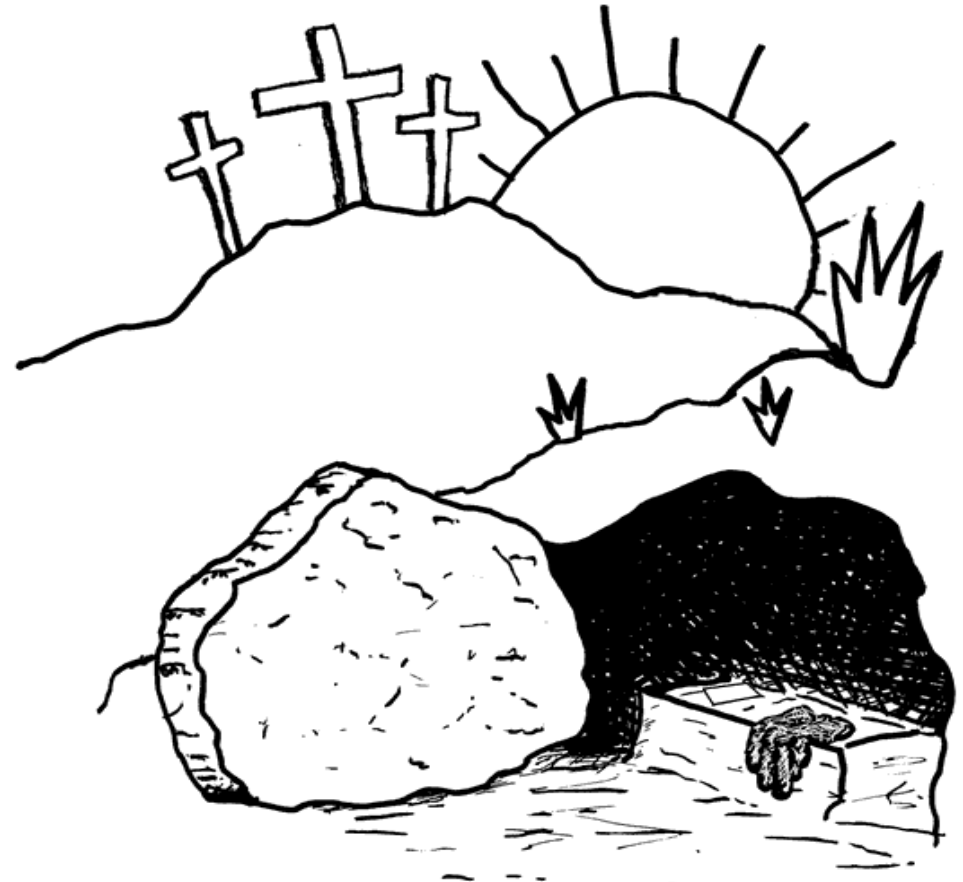
Church Website: www.dumcohoio.org

Praise and Worship 11:15am Youth Group 6-8pm

“Damascus Doings”

APRIL 2023

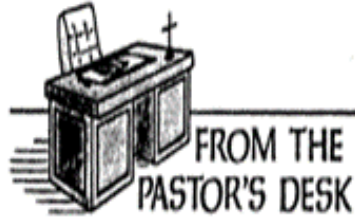
TO LIVE FOR CHRIST IS TO STRIVE FOR HOLINESS AND SEEK THE LOST



**He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.
Come, see the place where the Lord lay.
Matthew 28:6**

PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVES

April 2023



Pastor Fitch said, “I’ll bring the tub, Jerry, if you get a hose and run the water.” Jerry Stittle said, “Agreed!”

People ask, “Are we really a good church? Are we, after all, doing what we are supposed to be doing?” I emphatically answer, YES! At

the very heart of being a successful church is fulfilling the Great commission, which is: **19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20 NIV**

We, here at Damascus United Methodist Church, are so very blessed by God to be baptizing several people this Palm Sunday and Easter. These are wonderful, life-changing experiences for the people who are being baptized, but also a huge encouragement for the rest of the church. Realizing that we are doing what God has called us to do, we celebrate with those being baptized. The fact that they are empowered with a new life – **3 Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:3-4 NIV**

How perfect it is this Easter season to be able to celebrate these baptisms as a church family. And speaking of being a good and effective church family, let us make sure that we are providing a good church home for the candidates to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. “Brothers and sisters, I commend to your love and care these persons whom we this day receive into the membership of this congregation. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.” (United Methodist Hymnal p.48)

Of course, in order to be serious about doing this we all need to take heed to ourselves by showing a good Christian lifestyle. Living as Those Made Alive in Christ - **Colossians 3:1-17 NIV 1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. 12 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

Souls After Living Truth News



“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 4:6-7.** These verses totally sum up

our time at the Camp Asbury retreat March 3-5. Our S.A.L.T. youth had an enriching weekend. We all made new friends, had lots of fun, spoke with God through prayer and song, and otherwise felt a renewal by the Holy Spirit. What a blessing for youth and adults and we look forward to next year’s retreat. In the meantime, we have carried back with us a richer understanding which we will use to re-energize our own youth group! Looking forward to April and May, we eagerly await warmer weather and once again getting outside! Many fun things on the agenda! What you ask? Well, stay tuned. I promise it will be exciting!

Blessings,
Linda Henderson



"STEWARDSHIP PAGE"



Elodie Joy—took her first bottle 3/5/2023
Sheila Lucas— good report after colonoscopy
Youth Group had a great time at Camp Asbury
Jean Zion— no serious injuries from her fall



Ukraine— Shelter +
Government officials around the world
Sheila Lucas— Upper GI scope scheduled 5/3
Jay Lucas— knee repair surgery 4/17
Elodie Joy- health and strength
Bethany Kholos— healing and strength
Lane Heverly(8 years old)- surgery 3/30 to remove brain cyst
Joe Cadile— stents placed, healing and strength
Courtney (Bonnie McDermotts’s granddaughter) gallbladder removal,
healing and strength
Liz Black- healing and strength after a car accident
Kevin Maris— healing after snowboarding accident
Eleanor Shaver— healing and strength
Pauline Wayne— heart issues



A celebration of two lives, well lived, will be held for Lee and Norma Althouse Saturday April 22, 2023. The event will take place at the Damascus United Methodist Church located at 300 Valley Rd, Salem, Ohio and will be very casual and informal. The celebration will begin with a meet & greet from 10am - 11am. A tribute to Lee & Norma will begin at 11am followed by a luncheon in the fellowship hall of the church.



EASTER “EGG-STRAVANGA”!

Hey kids...be sure and join us during the worship service for a combined wee worship/junior church Easter celebration! We will be preparing a special snack, watching an Easter video, and enjoy some “egg-stra” special games and treats as we celebrate this wonderful day! He is risen! He is risen indeed!



CALLING ALL CAMPERS!!!!

It’s that time of year again! A large variety of camps are offered for kids ages 1st-12th grade! Be sure and read over the materials you were given and make your choice! Did you know our church has a camp scholarship fund? Church camp is a wonderful experience but it can be very expensive! Thank you to those who donate to this wonderful fund that enables our kids to attend camp!

**SAVE THE DATES FOR VBS:
TREASURED VBS
JUNE 11 – 15
6:00pm - 8:30pm
Ages 3 - 103**



Come and join us for this exciting adventure! Come and dig deeper as we will be discovering that you're priceless to God! At Treasured VBS, kids and adults dig into action-packed, faith-filled adventures. They'll discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold — it's them! Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for more exciting information!

Questions? Contact Lois Niederhiser



Pastor John and Krista will be continuing their Bible Study on the catechism of the Global Methodist Church on Wednesdays from 6:00pm—6:45pm. Hope to see you there.



Maundy Thursday Communion Service here at 7:00pm.

Good Friday combined service with West Branch Ministerial pastors here at 7:00pm.

Easter Sunrise Service 6:55am at Township Park behind G’s Pizza in Damascus.



HELP WANTED: The Monthly Church Breakfast is BACK with a vengeance!!! We are still serving on the third Saturday every month from 7AM to 10:30AM. We are still doing DONATION ONLY. Thank you to everyone’s renewed support for our community outreach program! We have been averaging over 140 people each month for some great food and fellowship time. Proceeds are benefitting

Projects and maintenance supplies for the Church and kitchen as well as being the MAIN fundraiser for the Summer Mission Trips. We are in desperate need of volunteers to help with the Breakfast. Adults are needed for cooking eggs, meat and pancakes as well as working the dining room and doing dishes. We would like to have 4 revolving teams that limit your time to 3 Saturdays a year! Please call or text me with any questions, concerns or to make our day and volunteer. Remember above all it’s a blast and a tremendous witness opportunity.

Lenny Niederhiser Cell (330) 550-8733 and email dumcmisstrip@gmail.com .



**Summer Mission Trip
June 25 – July 1, 2023**

Our group is extremely excited about this year’s trip. I am very excited about some more new faces on the trip. The old faces are exciting too! We have made our decision. We will be returning to Cluster 13 Ministries in Camden, NY. Cost is only \$100.00 each for those helping with the Breakfasts.

Wow! All our trips have been very successful and thrifty, even with high fuel costs. Please prayer fully consider coming on the trip this next summer. I can guarantee you will not regret your decision! Our fundraisers are already in full swing with the Community Breakfast every third Saturday at our DUMC. Stay tuned to your Sunday bulletin and listen for special announcements regarding the trip and fundraisers!

Building and repairing for Christ, Lenny

P.S. We need adults, especially men! Please consider coming along. Remember its NOT to late to go...the trip is open to all Youth and Adults...grade 7 and up!!!!



From your Lay Leader ...

Judge Not

April 2023

How many times have you heard over the years something like, “We Christians are not to judge”?

Most of the time the idea comes from part of the passage in Matthew 7 about judging that starts out **Judge not, that you be not judged.** When we leave Matthew 7 after reading verse one, you might come away with the idea no one should ever be

judged because we certainly do not want to be judged. Rather than a prohibition on Christians judging the sins of other Christians, Matthew 7: 1-6 is actually instructions on how and when we are to judge the sins of other Christians. This is a very complicated subject that needs much more than a short article, it is something that we all should be encouraged to study. However, if we were to sum it up quickly, we might come back to the same place we began “We are not to judge”. In other words, we are not the judges but rather we are to test everything against The Bible. There are many places to reference and through prayer and the leading of The Holy Spirit we are led to the correct passages. One that comes to mind right now is **1 st Thessalonians 5: 14-24 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.** Using these Biblical principles and especially prayer, we can also get guidance on self- reflection. It is so easy to justify our own actions and believe we are doing the right thing when conflict occurs that it is even more important to take a step back, study and pray for guidance. God also guides us by putting mature Christian brothers and sisters in our lives. Good old-fashioned accountability is a great reason to be in church connected to trusted brothers and sisters in Christ. As we move into summer, don’t forget to keep coming to church. Stay connected with your brothers and sisters and worship in person together whenever possible. Stay in the word!

Steven Sprague – Lay Leader
stevespra@gmail.com
cell 216-789-4650



April Birthdays

- 2: Lori Dearth
- 3: Jade Papic
- 6: Jenna Amabeli
- 10: Abby Heverly
Shaylee Muckleroy
Brittany Sprague
- 12: Andrew Coffee
- 13: Barb Zura
- 15: Marylee Blasiman
- 16: Barbara Baird
Michelle Papic
- 22: Geri George
Troy Uphold
- 23: Codey Dettweiler
- 25: Kaylea Pinkerton
- 30: Fred McPherson

April Anniversaries

22: Don & Barb Jones

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

Counters

Gary Mercer
&
Linda Henderson

Bus Driver

Jerry Menough

Children’s Rotation

Sunday School

- 2: Krista Fitch
- 9: Lois Niederhiser
- 16: Lois Niederhiser
- 23: Shaunda Uphold
- 30: Linda Henderson

Junior Church

- 2: Brittany Sprague
& Abby Heverly
- 9: Easter Celebration
- 16: Lois Niederhiser
& Kaylea Pinkerton
- 23: Troy Uphold
& Ally Zion
- 30: Steve Sprague
& Ethan Dettweiler

Wee Worship

- 2: Nancy Cadile
- 9: Easter Celebration
- 16: Holly Morrow
& Codey Dettweiler
- 23: Shaunda Uphold
- 30: Linda Henderson
& Richey Hill

Nursery

- 2: Amy Shoaff
- 9: Terrie Rohrer
- 16: Denise Linder
- 23: Denise Linder
- 30: Barb Karlen

Acolytes

- 2: Kara Zion
- 9: Lane Loving
- 16: Max Weingart
& Stella Smith
- 23: Richey Hill
- 30: Codey Dettweiler



COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Saturday April 15th
7:00AM-10:30AM
Donation Only
(change will be available)

**The Damascus Methodist
Circuit Riders Monthly
Gathering at Copeland Oaks**



We had a nice visit with music, communion, a message and fellowship on March 14th.

Circuit Riders next meeting:

Tuesday, April 11th at 3:30pm for worship music, message and communion in the Williamsburg Lounge.



There is a praise and worship service following our regular service from 11:15am to 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome for a great time of worship and fellowship. We hope to see you there.



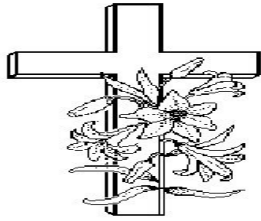
WOMEN OF FAITH

The Women of Faith will meet April 6th at 9:30am in the church library for our next meeting.

You can help... There are approximately 200 homeless people in the Alliance and surrounding area. CLOTHED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS is a non-profit mission supported solely by community donations. Here’s our chance to seek the lost and live for Christ. Please consider bringing food items and supplies that are listed on the donation box in the Narthex to help this mission. Thank you– Women of Faith. For more information see Helen Mincks or Terrie Rohrer.

Matthew 25: 35-36, 40 “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me.”

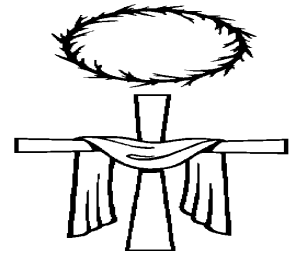
“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”



Damascus United Methodist Church

April 2023

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



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1
2 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	3 6:30pm SPRC Meeting	4 8:30am West Branch Ministerial Meeting	5 6:00pm– 6:45pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	6 9:30am WOF 9:30am TOPS 6:00pm Praise Band Practice 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	7 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Good Friday Service	8
9 6:55am Sunrise Service 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	10	11 3:30pm Circuit Riders at Copeland	12 6:00pm– 6:45pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	13 9:30am TOPS 6:00pm Praise Band Practice 6:30pm Ruritan Meeting	14	15 7:00am– 10:30am Church Breakfast
16 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	17 6:30pm Church Council	18	19 6:00pm– 6:45pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	20 9:30am TOPS 10:00am Counters Meeting 6:00pm Praise Band Practice	21	22 Memorial Service for Lee and Norma Althouse
23 9:00 am S S 10:00am Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	24 7:00pm Trustee Meeting	25	26 6:00pm– 6:45pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	27 9:30am TOPS 6:00pm Praise Band Practice	28	29 10:00am OCC Event in the Fellowship Hall
30 9:00 am S S 10:00am Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group						